

I C H A B O D :
 OR,
 FIVE GROANS
 OF THE
 CHURCH:

prudently *Foreseeing*, and Passionately *Bemoaning*
 Her Second FALL.

Threatned by these five *Dangerous*, tho' *Undiscern'd Miscarriages*
 that caus'd her First :

1. Undue *ORDINATION*,
 2. Loose *PROFANENESS*,
 3. Unconscionable *STURDY*,
 4. Encroaching *PLURALITIES*,
 5. Careless *NON-RESIDENCE*,

Humbly Presented to Her Supream Head and Governor,
 The KING's most Excellent MAJESTY; and His great Council,
 The PARLIAMENT of ENGLAND.



The Church of England

F. H. van Nove. Sculp.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, and are ready to die, Rev. 2. 3.

London, Printed for J. Harris, at the Harrow in the Poultry, 1691.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

I. *There are lately Publish'd, A Plain Relation of the late Action at Sea, between the English and Dutch, and the French Fleets, from June 22, to July 5, last, with Reflections thereupon, and upon the Present State of the Nation, &c. Written by the Author of the Reflections on the last years Occurrences. Price 1 s.*

II. *The Present State of Europe : Or, the Historical and Political Mercury ; giving an Account of all the Publick and Private Occurrences that are most considerable in every Court for the Month of Novemb. 1690, With curious Reflections upon every State. To be continued Monthly from the Original, Printed at the Hague by the Authority of the States of Holland and West-friezland. Also Printed for J. Harris at the Harrow in the Poultry, where are to be had the Mercuries for every Month, beginning with July, to the present Month.*

TO THE
R E A D E R.

Reader,

THese Groans of the Church of England are express'd with no less Reason than Passion, by an affectionate and zealous Son of this Afflicted Church. Afflicted I say, for, tho' when this was first Publish'd, which was in the year 1663, She may be thought to have but lately recover'd, like the Sun out of a Cloud or an Eclipse, her former Glory; and to have forgotten all her former Affliction by her Enemies: Yet the Affliction of the Miscarriages of Sons, is no less grievous to an Affectionate Mother, than the Persecutions of an Enemy. And since these Miscarriages are so far from being Reform'd in 27 years patience and expectation, that they are rather grown more obstinate and untractable; so as not only to stop their own Ears against the reproofs of their Brethren, but conspire to stop the mouths of such as dare to reprove them, it was thought fit to represent again the sad complaints of an Affectionate Mother to them.

To

To the Reader.

To reduce the Price from a twelve-penny Book to a six-penny one, was first attempted by Printing it in a larger Leaf and lesser Character; and when that would not do, it was thought fit to leave out one entire Section, which respecting the late Times, and the Ordination of such as were concern'd therein, is now become obsolete, rather than to abridg any of the rest.

Ichabod :

ICHABOD:

OR THE

Five Groans of the Church.

CHAP. I.

O ALL you that pass by me, stand and see, *if there be any* Lam. 1. 2.
sorrow like unto my sorrow ; if it hath been done to any
 Reformed or Protestant Church under Heaven, as it
 is done unto me ! O now my Wounds were ready to
 be closed, my Ruins to be repaired, my Desolations
 and Wastes to be finished ; when the Barbarous was
 checked, the Licentious was restrained, the Usurpers were removed,
 the professed Enemies of different Interests and Religion which persecu-
 ted me, were subdued, and I ready to settle upon the Eternal Founda-
 tions of sound Doctrine, of Primitive Government, of an holy and
 pure Worship, of a decent and comely Order, to the amazement of
 the World, to the honour of Religion, to the glory of God, to the peace
 of the whole Earth, and for good will among men : behold ! my Children
 are discontent, my Government is complained of, my Ordinances are
 neglected, my Ministers are despised, my Peace is disturbed, and my
 Safety endangered. *Hear, O Heavens ; and give Ear O Earth !* What
 could I have done that I have not done ? Have I not taught the truth
 of God sincerely, giving Milk to Babes, and stronger Meat to them
 that were able to bear it, and the Oracles of God to all in a Language
 they best understood ? Have I concealed any part of Gods Sacred Coun-
 sel from you ? Have I not set forth with all plainness and freedom the
 blessed fulness and excellencies of my Lord Jesus Christ, in such a man-
 ner and measure as I received from the Word and Spirit ? Have I
 not administered all the Ordinances of God faithfully ? Have I not en-
 joyed and taught all vertue and all grace, carefully recommending to
 my

*The Churches
 sense of her re-
 proach and suf-
 fering.*

my Children *whatsoever things are good, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; every holy Duty, every necessary Rule, and every imitable Example; with all the Advantages of sound Knowledge, powerful Preaching, which at once was able to inform the weakest, to reclaim the most erroneous, to reform the most Debauched, to satisfy the most curious, and to silence the most refractory? Have not I prepared with much study and industry, with many Prayers and Tears, with long Education, and diligent care, reverend Bishops, orderly Presbyters, able Ministers, workmen that need not be ashamed, duly ordained, and called after an uninterrupted and Catholick succession through all Ages, agreeable to that original Institution which was from Jesus Christ, the great High-priest, the true Prophet, the Sovereign King of the Church, the chief Preacher of Righteousness, and Bishop of our Souls? Have I not, I say, taken an holy Care of a Succession of Ministers about holy things, who might divide the Word aright by solid Preaching, might wait upon God solemnly by a devout and discreet Praying, might convince Gain-sayers by acute Disputing, might instruct the World by exact Writing, might maintain Peace and Order by wise Governing, might reform the World by holy living? Hath it not been my care and endeavour to keep up the Soundness, Power and Life of Christian Religion? Have not I laboured that my good People might every where have what is necessary and wholesome for their Souls good, in devout Prayers, in holy Sacraments, in powerful Sermons; whereby I desired (God knoweth) to preserve wholesome and saving Truth, to promote true Holiness, to set up an holy decency, to maintain the wholesome Form and Power of Godliness, in truth, peace, order and Unity? Have not I held forth an holy Light, Rule and Life, in the plain parts of Scripture every year read; in the Articles every year acknowledged, in the Creeds and Catechism every Year explained; in the Liturgy constantly used, whereby poor Souls had a plain, easy and sure way to Heaven, through an unfeigned Faith, sincere Repentance, a Catholick Charity, a devout Humility, a good Conscience, and an holy Obedience to God and Man, according to the will of God, unto all well-pleasing? Do not I take care to instruct the Ignorant diligently, to comfort the Weak-hearted tenderly, to raise up them that Fall compassionately, to visit those that are sick charitably, to relieve those that want mercifully, to bury my dead that sleep in Jesus solemnly, to punish those that do amiss severely, to restore them that have gone astray pitifully, to instruct them that oppose themselves meekly, to frame a way of Peace, Order, and Communion, (in which Brethren might happily dwell together in unity) prudently, rationally and discreetly? O what failings of mine then have occasioned these impatient murmurs which I hear! What faults of mine have raised those bitter Reproaches which I bear?*

My Care.

What

What enormities of mine have provoked those Imminent Dangers which I fear? O why is it, that ye who own my God as Saviour, who have submitted to my Doctrin as your Rule, who have partaken of my Sacraments as your Refreshment and Comfort; O why is it that ye Hate and Despise me, that ye Strip and Wound me, that ye Tear and Mangle me, that ye Impoverish and Debase me, that ye make me a Scorn, an Abomination, an Hissing and Astonishment to all that see me, a Derision and a mocking to my Enemies round about me?

Alas, all Men of Weight and Worth, for Parts and Piety, for Judgment and Ingenuity, for Conscience and Integrity, for Grace, Learning and Renown, know my Innocence so far, that as to the Foundation of Faith and Rule of Holiness, I have only adhered to Gods blessed Word: as for the Circumstances and Ceremonies of Religion, I use in them prudently and charitably that liberty and power which I suppose is allowed here for Peace, Order and Decency, by that blessed God who is not the Author of Confusion, but of Peace, as in all the Churches of the Saints. If we may believe the Integrity of those Reformers that settled this Church, whose Learning, Worth and Piety hath been confirmed by the Testimony of so many Wise and Religious Princes, by the approbation of so many Honourable and Unanimous Houses of Parliament, by the Suffrages of so many Learned and Reverend Convocations, by the Applauses of so many other Reformed Churches: If we may believe the Preaching, Living and Dying of so many Hundred excellent Bishops and Ministers, or the Prayers and Proficiencies of so many Thousand of Godly Christians; or if we may believe the wonderful Blessings and special Graces of a Merciful God, attesting the Verity, Integrity and Sanctity of my Christian Constitution for many happy Years. Or if you will believe even all Men in *England*, who have by Oaths and Subscriptions, by Vows and Protestations resolved to maintain the Protestant Religion as it was established in the Church of *England*; who despair any where to find the way of Truth and Peace, of Holiness and Happiness; but in the use of those holy Means, and in the exercise of those divine Graces which accompany Salvation, within me professed and enjoyed. I know nothing excellent in any Church for outward Policy, inward Tranquility, and eternal Felicity; nothing that was Pious or Peaceable, Moral or Vertuous, Ritual or Spirituall, Orderly or Comely, or any way conducing to Truth and Holiness, to Grace or Vertue, to the Souls Edification and Comfort, which was not by me entertained with Competent Maintenance, Noble Encouragements, Ingenious Honours, Peaceable Serenity, and Munificent Plenty; in which I flourished so many Years by Gods Goodness, and Mans indulgence.

*Her Apology
for her Constitution.*

Alas, whatever I have done in the settlements of the Rites, Circumstances and Dependencies of Religion, I have observed that modesty, wisdom and humility that became a Church of Christ, in discreetly and ingenuously complying with sober, primitive and venerable Antiquity in the Church, as far as it observed the Rules of Gods Word, and went not beyond the liberty allowed it in point of Order and Decency. O you are too Knowing to be Ignorant, and too Ingenious to be insensible of your duty to God, and your respect to me ; who was heretofore so much loved by my Children, applauded by my Friends, revered by my Neighbours, feared and envied by mine Enemies, for those spiritual Gifts, Ministerial, Devotional and Practical, which were evidently seen in me ; those Heavenly Influences which People received from me, those gracious Examples, and frequent good Works set forth by me, the blessed Experiences Men enjoyed within me, the Charitable simplicities exercised by my Members, the numerous Assemblies, the frequent Devotions, the reverent Attentions, the unanimous Communions, the well-grounded hopes, and unspeakable Comforts which Thousands enjoyed, both Living and Dying, in obedience to, and communion with me ; which to impartial Men were most pregnant Evidences, and valid Demonstrations of true Religion, and a true Church, settled by the joynt Consent, and publick piety of a Christian Nation. He was a Wise, Holy, and Reverend Son of my Bosom, who said, *That in the greatest maturity of his Judgment, and integrity of his Conscience, when most redeemed from Juvenile Fervours, Popular Fallacies, Vulgar Partialities, and Secular Flatteries, he declared to the present Age and Posterity, that since he was capable to move in so serious a search, and weighty a disquisition as that of Religion is ; as his greatest design was through Gods Grace to find out and persevere in such a Profession of Christian Religion as hath most of Truth and Order, of Power and Peace, of Holiness and Solemnity, of Divine Verity, and Catholick Antiquity, of true Charity, and holy Constancy ; so he could not (apart from all prejudices and prepossessions) find in any other Church or Church-way, Ancient or Modern, either more of the Good he desired, or less of the Evil he would avoid, than he had a long time discerned, and upon a stricter scrutiny more and more in the frame and form, in the Constitution and settled Dispensation of the Church of England. No where, saith he, Diviner Mysteries, no where Sounder Doctrinals, Holier Morals, Warmer Devotionals, apter Rituals, or comlier Ceremonials. All which together, by a meet and happy concurrence of Piety and Prudence, brought forth such Spirituals and Graces, both in their Habits, Exercises and Comforts, as are the Quintessence and Life, the Soul and Seal of true Religion ; those more immediate and special Influences of Gods holy Spirit upon the Soul, those joynt Operations of the blessed Trinity, for the Justification, Sanctification, and Salvation of a Sinner.*

Can you blame my Government, that ancient and Catholick Government of godly Bishops; which is so agreeable to Right Reason, so suitable to the Principles of due Order and Policy among Men, so consonant to the Scripture-Wisdom both in Rules and Patterns, so conform to the Catholick and Primitive Way of all Christian Churches throughout all Ages, and in all places of the World? Would you have me, against all Charity, Modesty, Humility or Equity, to fall away from the Apostolical way of all famous Churches and religious Christians? (to cast off the *ἱερωσὺν καὶ πατριάρχην*, the *Sacerdotium* & *patriarchatum*, *nec conciliis institutum; sed semper retentum, & non nisi auctoritate Apostolica institutum*; the *Apostolici seminis traduces Episcopos*; that *universam successionem Episcoporum*; those *successiones ab initio decurrentium Episcoporum*; that *ordinem Episcoporum qui in Johannem stat auctorem*; that *toto orbe decretum*) Shall not I enquire of the former Age, and prepare my self to the search of my Fathers? For I am but of yesterday and know nothing. Shall they not teach me, and tell me, and utter words out of their Hearts? Shall not I stand in the way, and ask for the old way, which is the good way, and walk therein?

Would you have me give offence to the whole Christian World, which either is or would be governed by Bishops, as the most Apostolick, Primitive, and Universal Way? Would you have me disown the right succession of the power Ministerial, conferred by Episcopal Hands unto this day? Shall the Jewish Church have the Heads of their Tribes as Bishops and Rulers over their Brethren the Priests and Levites, and the Christian Church (in imitation of them, as in other particulars, so in this) have their Apostles, Evangelists, their Pastors and Teachers, without reproach, and may not I? O it is certain that what is once well done, in a regular publick way, is ever after done as to the permanency of that Vertue that is always in a great and good example. Shall I lay aside Primitive and Right Episcopacy, which hath such grounds from Scripture, both as to the divine Wisdom so ordering his Church among the Jews, as also by the Example, Precept and Direction evident from our Lord Jesus Christ, and the holy Apostles in the New Testament; who preferred worthy Persons for their Piety, Zeal and holy Gravity to exercise a Christian Authority over Ministers and People for their Souls good, which might consist with Charity and Humility, for the preservation of the Churches Peace and Purity in the best and primitive Times; such grave persons as for their Age, were Fathers; for their Innocency, Saints; for Industry, Labourers; for Constancy, Confessors; for Zeal, Martyrs; for Charity, Brethren; for their Light, Angels; and venerable for all Excellencies? And I own no other Bishops, but such in whom are remarkable the Vertues of the most ancient and imitable Bishops; the Industry of St. *Austin*, the Courage of St. *Ambrose*, the Devotion of St. *Gregory*, the Learning of St. *Nazianzen*, the Eloquence of St. *Chrysostome*, the Mildness of St. *Cyprian*,
the

*She justified
her Govern-
ment.*

the Love of *St. Ignatius*, the Constancy of *St. Polycarp*, the Nobleness of *St. Basil*; and those who come nearest the Apostolical Pattern, and resemble the most of any Christians or Ministers, the Grace and Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. I endeavour that my Bishops may be among Christians the most faithful; among Men, the most civil; among Preachers, the most painful; among Orators, the most persuasive; among Governours, the most moderate; among Pious Men, the most fervent; among Professors, the most forward; among Severe Men, the most exact; among Sufferers, the most patient; among Perseverants, the most constant; the most compleat every way, and perfect unto every good work. These I take care should be duly chosen, should be esteemed with Honour, and revered with Love. My Rule to them is, That they should over-rule with Vigilance, should rule with joynt Counsel, neither levelled with younger Preachers and Novices, nor exalted too much above the Grave and Elder. I allow these Men an honourable Competency with Eminency, wherewith they may exercise a large Heart and liberal Hand, which may conciliate a general Respect, and deserve the common Love. My direction to them is, That their Vertue and Piety may preserve the Authority of their places; and this in the Order, Peace and Dignity of the Church, that they may be the Touchstone of Truth, the Loadstone of Love, the Standard of Faith, the Pattern of Holiness, the Pillars of Stability, and the Centres of Unity; such as the *Erroneous may hate*, the *Factions Envy*, good Men *may love*, and bad Men *may fear*.

he justifieth
er Doctrin.

2. Can ye blame my *Doctrin*, approved by the Reformed, and agreeable with the Primitive Church? A *Doctrin* according to Godliness, teaching all Men, *That denying all Ungodliness and Worldly Lust, they should live righteously, soberly and godly in this present World.*

he justifieth
er Devotion.

3. Do you find fault with my *Devotion* in the Publick Worship of God, by Confession, Prayers, Praises, Psalms, and other holy Oblations of a Rational and Evangelical Service, offered up to our God by the joynt Piety of all my Children, (the *νομαὶ δ' ἁγία*, the *ῥήματα*, the *Communis Oratio*) where nothing is expressed as my Mind, which I thought not agreeable with the Mind of Gods Spirit in the Scripture? Nor do I know any part of it to which a judicious Christian might not in Faith say *Amen*, taking the expressions of it in that pious and benign Sense which the Church intended and the Words may well bear. Indeed the whole Composure of my *Liturgy* is (in my Judgment) so wholesom, so holy, so compleat, so discreet, so devout, so useful, so savoury, so well-advised, that I find nothing in the eighteen *Liturgies* composed in the Eastern and Western Church, that is excellent, but is in this of mine; and many things which are less clear or necessary in them, are better expressed or wisely omitted here; the whole being so ordered, as might best inform all peoples Understandings, stir up their Affections, and quicken their Devotions, in a whole-

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wholeſom form of ſound Words : ſuch as *Moses, David*, the Prophets and the Lord Jeſus left behind them, ſolemnly recorded in the Scriptures. So that according to the Primitive care, I firſt laid down Scripture-grounds in the Creeds and Confessions, and then I enlarged and fixed my Liturgies and Devotions as near as I could to the Maieſty, Solemaity, Exactneſs, Unanimity and Fulneſs of Publick Prayers upon all holy publick occaſions, ſo plainly, that the devout Soul knows well what it ſhould deſire of God; and ſo affectionately that it earneſtly deſires in it, what it knoweth God alloweth; and ſo uniformly, that it peaceably goeth along with the Congregation, with one Mind and one Heart, *in the Unity of the Spirit, in the bond of Peace.*

4. Is it the *Rites and Ceremonies* I impoſe that diſpleaſe you? Alas, I find the God of Heaven which we worſhip in *England* enjoying more Ceremonies on his own People, and forbidding no holy Cuſtom to any Chriſtians, in order to advance the Decency and Order of his Service, or Chriſtians mutual Edification and joynt Devotion under the Goſpel. Our bleſſed Saviour hath by his Spirit guiding the Pens and Practices of the Apoſtles, ſufficiently manifeſted the Power and Liberty given the Church and the Governors of it, for the choice and uſe of ſuch decent Cuſtoms, Rites and Ceremonies, (not as Divine Inſtitutions upon the Conſciences, but as Human Injunctions upon the Practices) as agree with godly Manners and the Truth of the Goſpel, and may beſt ſerve for Order, Decency, Peace, Solemnity and mutual Edification of Chriſtians, agreed upon by Publick Conſent; in which every ones Vote is perſonally or virtually included. It's true, as the Liturgy, ſo the Ceremonies have *ſomething* of *Rome* in them: for to deal plainly, I did freely and juſtly aſſert to my own Uſe and God's Glory whatever on due tryal I found to have the Stamp of God's Truth and Grace, or the Churches Wiſdom and Charity upon it. I would not reſuſe any Good I found amongſt them, becauſe it was mixed with ſome Evil; but trying all things, I held faſt that which is good, being intent upon the great Ends of Piety, Devotion and Charity. It's true, I enjoyn my People an *Inward Worſhip* of Soul, in Spirit and in Truth, before God; but withal, I enjoyn *Outward Worſhip* of the Body (which is but a Reasonable Service to God that made the Body) exemplary and ſignificant before Men, in ſuch Habits and Geſtures as may moſt conduce (by the advice of the whole Church: for the Private Spirit of the Prophets in thoſe things, ought to be ſubject to the Publick Spirit of the Prophets) to Reverence, Devotion and Edification, in knowing, humble, meek and quiet Spirits, rightly diſcerning the innocent Nature of ſuch things not prohibited, and ſo indifferent; and the Chriſtian Liberty allowed to them, to uſe thoſe things indifferent when commanded, and to lay them aſide when not commanded. However, let the many Obligations to Unity by the
true

true Faith you joyntly profess, give you more Satisfaction, than the occasions of dividing the Ceremonies in which you differ, give you Offence: So that you may not upon so small occasions, in such small matters, sacrifice to your private Passion and Perswasion the Publick Peace and Prosperity of the Church; especially since I never heard of any Sober Christian, or truly Godly Minister, who (being in other things Prudent, Unblameable, and sincere) did ever suffer any check of Conscience meerly upon the account of having been conformable to, and keeping Communion with me. Nor did they ever complain of Ceremonies, Liturgy and Episcopacy, as any damps to their real Graces, or to their Holy Communion with God's Blessed Spirit; but admired them as the united Influence, the joynt Consent, the combined Devotion of all good Christians in this Nation, who publickly agreed with one mind and in one manner to serve the Lord, in a way allowed by the most Pious of Princes, practised by the best Nobility, owned by the wisest Gentry, maintained by the most learned Clergy, and embraced by the best sort of Commons. I allow only such Ceremonies as make Religious Duties not more Pious, but more conspicuous; not more Sacred, but more Solemn; not more Spiritual and Holy, but more Visible, Imitable and Exemplary; to quicken my Children, to Allure others, to Instruct and Edify all.

5. Are ye offended with my *Canons and Injunctions*? Is it fit that a few Men whom Order and Policy hath made inferiour to others, as the Rulers and Representatives of the whole Society, should prefer their own private Opinions and Judgments, before the well-advised Results, the Learned Counsels, the pious Endeavours, and solemn Sanctions of so many, Eminent for Piety, Prudence, Integrity, publick Influence, and just Authority?

6. Are my solemn *Fasts and Feasts* your Grievances? Those Solemn Remembrances of God's Mercy to Men in Christ, celebrated with Prayer, Praises, Preaching and Communicating to Gods Glory, and all sober Christians improvement, according to the known president of the *Jews*, and the general practice of the Christian Church? What harm is there if some good Men observing a day, observe it to the Lord; and others not observing a day, observe it not to the Lord?

7. Do you resent my *Endeavours for Unity and Uniformity*? Alas, I desire only that Men sincerely worship one true God, and profess the Faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they may be Partakers of the Gifts and Graces of the blessed Spirit, and may have an holy Communion with that Adorable Trinity, and with one another in Love and Charity, as Christians, enjoying the Noblest Life, the Sweetest Society, and most Heavenly Fraternity; imitating God, emulating Angels; Children and Servants of Christ's Family, Candidates of Heaven, Expectants of Happiness, Partakers of Grace, and daily preparing for

Eternal

Eternal Glory : That all Men who have been Called, Baptized and Instructed by lawful Ministers here, in the Mysteries and Duties of the Gospel, may make a joynt and publick profession of the Christian Faith, and Reformed Religion, in the name, and as the sense of the whole Nation, grounded upon the holy Scripture, guided also and administred by that Uniform Order, Due Authority, and Holy Ministry for Worship and Government, which according to the Mind of Christ, the Pattern of the Apostles, and the practice of all Primitive Churches, hath been lawfully established by the Wisdom and Consent of all Estates in this Kingdom, for Gods Honour, the Churches Safety, the Publick Peace, and the Common Good of Souls.

8. Do I not allow you a just *Liberty* to do such things constantly and chearfully which are most proper and advantagious to the nature and excellency of Men ? To think what is true, to do what is fit, and enjoy what is just in reference to God, others, and your selves ? I have taken from you no liberty but that of *Doing Evil*. You are at liberty to enjoy all the Comforts, Priviledges, and Ordinances which Christ hath instituted, in an Holy Order, and Regular Way, for Private or Publick good ; and to hope for that Reward and Crown which God the Righteous Judge hath promised those that persevere in well-doing. My highest aim is, that you may have liberty to exercise a good Conscience, void of Offence towards God and towards Man, that they may willingly in all things live honestly.

9. Are ye displeased with my *Members* ? Alas, innocent Men, they pursue after the Knowledge of, and Communion with God, in order to a Rational, Religious, Spiritual, Gracious, Perfect and Unchangeable Life ; enjoying themselves in the blessed enjoyment of God, the enjoyment of whom satisfieth all their Desires, rewards all their Duties, requites all their Sufferings, compleats all their Happiness ; yea, Crowns and Perfects true Religion. They endeavour that *on Earth*, which they hope for *in Heaven* ; viz. A right Knowledge, and a willing Performance, which as reasonable Creatures they owe for ever to God their Maker, Preserver and Redeemer in Christ. With this Religious frame and temper, of which themselves only are conscious, they prepare for a Glorious and Blessed Immortality, with a Sincerity of Heart, and Uprightness of Conversation, which hath no other Rule but Gods Word, no other End but Gods Glory, no other Comfort but the Constancy of this Disposition to their Lives end. Innocent Men, they look for one common Salvation, they use one common Sacrament, they profess one Faith and Rule of Holiness, they have one Gracious Temper, the same inward sense of Duty and Devotion ; they walk in the same order with the Catholick Church over the face of the Earth.

10. Do you envy me my *Patrimony and Maintenance*, what the Law of God allows me, what the Gospel hath provided for me, what the Piety of Elder times hath bestowed upon me, what good Kings, Peers and People of their own endowed me with, freely *honouring the Lord with their Substance*, that they that served at the Altar, might live by the Altar ? O why may not my Children who attend the Gospel, live by the Gospel, since they attend a Ministry as venerable in its Mysteries, as clear in its Doctrin, as glorious in its chief Minister Jesus, as painful to its Ministers, and as comfortable to Pious and Devout Souls, as the Ministry of the Law ? Why are you offended that they of my Children that are taught, should communicate to them of my Children *that teach in every good thing*.

11. Do you envy my just *Power and Authority*, whereby with the Wisdom, Gravity and Integrity of such Men as are invested with that power, I may check all abuses and disorders in the Church ; and by a well-ordered Discipline, I may recover my self to my former Glory and Renown, for which I was spoken of throughout the World ?

12. Do you except against the private Infirmities, the *personal failings of my Bishops and Ministers*, as less strict and unblameable in their Lives, less painful in their Calling, less prudent in their undertakings, or less compassionate in their Government ? though all the World knoweth that within me Learning flourisheth, Knowledge multiplieth, Grace aboundeth, excellent Preaching thriveth, Sacraments are duely administred, the fruits of Gods Spirit are mightily diffused, Hospitable Kindness is exercised, Christian Charity is maintained, Plainheartedness and good works are eminent ; though I know the Christian world cannot shew Men more Eminent than some of my Clergy are for well-weighed Knowledge, for Christian Courage and Patience, for sincere Piety, for indefatigable Industry, for Care and Vigilancy, for exemplary Vertue, for sound Doctrin, useful Writing, prudent Governing ; for a firm Constancy, for fatherly Instructions, Charitable Corrections, and imitable Conversations ; who guide the People without any allowed Licentiousness in Conversation, any undecency in Devotion, any irregularity in Administration ; in all which, according to the Sacred Direction of Gods Word, according to the Heavenly Assistance of Gods Spirit through Faith in Jesus Christ, they teach them to worship the only true God, who is blessed for ever ; as the admirable instruments of Gods Glory, and the good of Mens Souls ; teaching them a fruitful and effectual Faith, a sound and judicious Knowledge, an hearty and sincere Love, a discreet and prudent Zeal, a severe and through Repentance, fervent and devout Prayers, Godly and unfeigned Sorrow, spiritual and unspeakable Comforts, well-grounded and firm Hope, Heavenly and Holy Conversation, a meek Obedience and Submission in the general frame of Christian Mens carriage. Though

Though I have Men Famous for Greatness of Learning, Soundness of Judgment, Gravity of Manners, and Sanctity of Lives ; yet among my Ten Thousand Ministers, it's likely some may do amiss. If when there were but three Men in the World, one was a Murderer ; if among *Noah's Sons*, one of three was Disobedient ; if among *Jacob's Children*, of two one was Prophane ; if of twelve Apostles, one was a Devil, another Dissembled, and a third Denied his Master ; if among the Asian Angels, there is none but was to be reprov'd ; if among the few Primitive Preachers, there was a *Demas that loved the present World*, a *Diotrephes that loved the Pre-eminence* : among my so many Thousand Clergy, it's not likely but that some may fall short of the severe exactness required in all Ministers, who ought to be Patterns in good Works.

Oh my Clergy are not Angels, but Men subject to the like Infirmities with other Men. *If they should say they have no Sin, they would deceive themselves, and the Truth would not be in them ; but if they Confess their Sins, he is faithful and just to forgive them their Sins, and to cleanse them from all unrighteousness.* Be Perfection the Glory of other Church-members, the glory of mine is Sincerity. "Without all peradventure, the most Holy and All-seeing God, who walketh in the midst of the Golden Candlesticks, whose pure Eyes are most intent upon the Ministers of the Church, hath found Iniquity in his Servants the Bishops, and other Ministers, both as to their Persons and Professions ; all things being open and naked to him with whom we have to do.

1. He observes how many Consecrated and set apart to the service of God and his Church, in the Name, Place, Power and Authority of Jesus Christ, and approaching his gracious Presence with *Aaron* in the Holy of Holies, in the glorious Manifestations of God in Christ to his Church, by publick Ordinances and spiritual Influences, have not so sanctified the Name of the Lord God, their God, in their Hearts and Lives, in their Doctrins and Duties.

2. The great Searcher of Hearts knoweth how rashly many of his Ministers undertake, how carelessly they manage that great and terrible work, under which Angels may swoon, and great Apostles cry, *Who is sufficient for these things !* How Vulgarly they Converse, how lazily they live, how loosely they Behave themselves, how Ambitiously they Design, how Covetously they Reach, how Enviously they Repine, how Unexemplary they Walk, Unworthy of the Favour and Indulgence shewed them, to the Amazement of their High calling, the Dishonour of their Profession, to the Forfeiture of their Dignity and Plenty, the endangering of their Peace and Safety.

3. He that is about our Paths, and about our Dwellings, hath observed how Unpreparedly, Negligently and Irreverently, how Partially, Popularly and Passionately, how Formally and Vainly, without any

power of Godliness, Life of Religion, some perform the work of God, the great work of Eternal Concernment to our own and other Mens Souls.

4. He whose Eyes see, whose Eye-lids try the Children of Men, hath looked down from Heaven, and observed the Iniquity of some Mens Holy things; their Dead and Unreasonable, instead of a Living and Acceptable Service; he hath taken notice of that supine Negligence which hath sunk some Mens Ministrations below the just Majesty, Solidity and Gravity of Gospel-Dispensations; others by an affected height and depth, for want of plain Instruction and Charitable Condescending, amuse the poor People, who know not what they say, nor whereof they do affirm.

5. He that will reprove, and set Mens Sins in order before them, hath taken notice of Mens remiss Compliance, and others exact Rigours, (according to their private Tempers, Judgments and Passions) whereby they swerved too much from that just Charity, Discretion, Legality and Constancy which my Canons intended, and my Constitution, Health and Peace required; especially in the peevish touchiness of these times, when so many Subtile and Envious ones lie in wait to destroy me.

Yet my Church-mens Exorbitancies are not my Constitutions, their Failings are not my Frame, their Infirmities are not my Nature; their Fall is no more mine who disallows it, than the Angels fall may be the Heavens that forbid it: Their Weaknesses are Humane, my Authority is Divine; that Charity which thinketh no Evil, will not lay upon me those Enormities which I forbid by a Law, which I restrain by Discipline, which I mourn for in mine Humiliation, and discountenance in those great patterns that shew a most excellent Way. These Sins (O the Christian world!) are transgressions of my Law, affronts to my Authority, the baffles of my Canons and Injunctions. O that my Apology were Written, yea, Printed in a Book, for the satisfaction of the World, *that the good that I would do, that I cannot do; and the Evil that I would not do, that I do! I find a Law of my Members against the Law of my Mind:* So that it's no more I, but the Sins and the Sinners that dwell in me.

It's you, it's you whom I have nourished and brought up as Children, whom I have encouraged as Ministers, whom I have promoted as Governours; it's you that have brought this Reproach and Danger upon me. When I had with Heroick Patience endured the Oppression of Adversaries, by a Christian Prudence defeated the Attempts of Schismatics, by an exemplary Humility and Piety turned the Hearts of Enemies, and by a Miracle of Restauration silenced the mouths of all Men; you, my Sons, opened the mouth of Scandal, strengthened the cry of Reproach, raised the clamours of the Envious. Oh, if an Enemy had done this, I could with the same Christian courage I have
suffered

suffered these twenty Years, have born it; but it's you of my own Bosom, Family and Profession: O you, my Clergy, whom I expected more glorious, more esteemed, more Reverenced before all the world, after your constant sufferings, who coming out of this Fiery Furnace, might shine brighter than ever you did with the love of Christ, and of me his Church, both as to the care of those Private Charges and Publick Inspections, committed to you in excellent Order, and by due Authority: and I expected that neither Pride nor Envy, Pomp nor Popularity, neither Covetousness nor Ambition, should distract the Thoughts, divide the Hearts, exasperate the Humours, or provoke the reproach of an incensed People, against my Order and Government, and the Good of all sorts of Christians. Whosoever of you, notwithstanding the Miracles both of your Sufferings and Relief, at such a time as this, when the Mouth of Hell is open against me, shall open any other Mouth to joyn in the cry against the Church, give Life or Tongue to any Scandalous Sin, and set that to its *clamans de Terra*, crying from the Ground; that by Luxury or Sloth, by Covetousness or Gripping, by Insolence or Pride, by Carelessness or Looseness, by Disorder and Irregularity, shall justify Mens Malice against me, and by that means perswade Credulous and easy People, that is true that hath been said of me; all is just that hath been inflicted upon me: I know not what Wo is heavy enough for him; O alas, my Brother! O it had been better for him he *had never been Born*.

My Doctrin I can maintain, my Discipline I can assert, my Constitution I can vindicate: *You, you*, O my Sons, I cannot justify: Wo is me that must hear your Reproach, and cannot gainsay it. *Five things* there are that tend equally to mine and your own Ruin, with which I must charge you before the World: Five things that will insensibly undermine my famous Fabrick, which hath been the care and labour of so many Years when erected, and the Miracle of this last Year when restored. These *Five sad Particulars* are,

1. *Undue Ordination.*
2. *Loose Prophaneness.*
3. *An unconscionable Symony.*
4. *Encroaching Pluralities.*
5. *Careless Non-residence.*

CHAP. II.

The Church of England's Resentment of undue Ordination.

ALthough I am well satisfied (whatever the Romanists and others have of late suggested) that my Ordination is *Authentick*, Primitive and proper in the form of it; is *valid* in the Author, being by Men ordained in an uninterrupted succession by the Primitive Bishops, as they were by the Apostles, and the Apostles by Christ, and Jesus Christ by God himself; and is regular and legal in the circumstances of it, being agreeable to the Established Laws of the Realm: yet not without much regret must I confess, that solemn investiture of Men to the great Calling of Ministers, fallen much below its Native Glory, much shrunk in its Primitive Sacredness and Reverence, and extremely decayed in its first Esteem and Honour, because my Reverend Bishops in the great intricacies of late Alterations, are surprized to bestow the honour of that High Calling, 1. Upon the Young; 2. Upon the Unlearned; 3. Upon the Debauched; and 4. Upon the Factious.

S E C T. I.

Of Young Ministers, whereof I have a Call of above 3000.

WO is me! when I have those that *Teach* before they have *Learned*; that I have those that would instruct others, and have need themselves to be instructed which are the first principles of the Doctrine of Christ. Instead of the *Ancient Fathers*, we have *Children who are made Priests in all Lands*. Former Times honoured my excellent Clergy for their Age and Gravity, revered them for their Learning and Austerity, and esteemed them as the wonder of the world; and said, *Ask thy Father, and he will shew thee; thine Ancients, and they shall tell thee*: this age slightes them for their Youth and Weakness, for their Ignorance and Unexperience, as Persons that are but of Yesterday, and know nothing. We have Understanding, saith the Common People to the Young Men, as well as you; we are not inferiour to you; yea, who knoweth not such things as these? As the Patriarchs separated their First-born for the Priest-hood, and Moses and Aaron reserved themselves many Years for their Ministries, and the Law prepared Men Thirty Years for the sacred Service; and the Blessed Jesus, the Preacher of Righteousness, entred not until the Thirtieth Year of his Age upon the great work of the Ministry. So my Bishops, knowing how to behave themselves in the work of God, which is the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of truth, took heed to themselves, and the Flocks over which the holy Ghost had made them Overseers, that they laid hands suddenly on no man, neither were partakers of other Mens

Sins,

sins, but kept themselves pure, taking care that men be first proved, and then use the Office of a Deacon, being found blameless; and then when they had used the Office of a Deacon well, and purchased to themselves a good degree of a Priest or Bishop, then they took care that they should be blameless, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to Hospitality, apt to teach: — nor Novices, lest being lifted up with Pride, they fall into the condemnation of the Devil. — Moreover, they took care they might have a good Report of them that are without, lest they fall to reproach and condemnation of the Devil. But now, since the looseness of these late times, there are admitted to the Priesthood of the meanest of the people, who are not the Sons of Levi; as in Jereboam's days, every one that will, is made a Priest, that he may have bread to eat. Those Pulpits that were filled with ancient Fathers, are now Desks for young Children: those solemn Assemblies that were rapt up into the third Heaven with pious Sermons and devout Prayers, hear the late pedantique Harangues and juvenile Orations with scorn and laughter: those people that thronged to hear the Wisdom of God delivered in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power, are quite weary of that true foolishness of Preaching, that consists only in the childish Wisdom of Words, and in the trifling enticing words of Mans Wisdom. I had reverend Men, that shewed themselves a pattern of good Works, in Doctrin shewing Uncorruptness, Gravity, Sincerity, sound Speech that cannot be condemned; that they that were of the contrary Party were ashamed, having no evil to say of them, when I ordained Elders in every City. I had men blameless, sober, just, holy, temperate; whose Judgments were settled, whose Passions were allayed, whose Affections were composed, whose Actions were advised, and Conversation exact and uniform; since every one did what is good in his own eyes. My young Ministers have been unstable in all their Way, unsettled in their Minds, rash in their Undertakings, imprudent in their Carriage, weak in their Discourses, unexperienced in their Behaviour, not even, orderly and stayed in their Conversation; to the grief of good men, who esteem all Ministers very highly in love for their Works sake; to the joy of those evil men that have ill-will for Sion, who cry, Aha, aha, so would we have it. O young men, who requireth these things at your hands? Why do you run before I am willing to send you? O how dare you take this Office upon you, until you are called with solemn preparation, as was Aaron? Are not you afraid (now you have newly passed the Elements of Philosophy, and the first Principles of Nature) to look into those Mysteries which the Angels desire to look into, to search into that Knowledge which passeth Knowledge? Are not you afraid to ascend that Pulpit whither Luther said he never ascended (though very aged) without fear and trembling? Are not you afraid to undertake that dreadful work from which the Prophets fled, the Fathers avoided, the Primitive Pastors trembled at? Do you know what you do, when you undertake to be

Embassadors in Christs stead to bring back the World to God, to be Co-workers with God in the salvation of Souls, to be Angels of the Church, to be as Stars in Gods Right Hand, to be Stewards of the Mysteries of God, to watch for precious Souls *as they that must give an account*—— How can you govern others, who cannot govern your selves? What power have you over others, who have hardly any power over your selves? What esteem can you find among them, who will naturally despise your youth? Did not Philosophy think you fit (O young Men) to *hear* Morals, and shall Divinity admit you to *read* divine Lectures? How can you in the heat of youth, in the vigour of Lusts appear in the World perswading Men to mortifie their Lusts, to crucifie the Flesh with the Affections and Lusts? With what hope can you endeavour to compose the World to that great Rule, to which you cannot compose your selves? How will you behave your selves as Guides among persons whose years and experience are so much beyond yours? How impertinently will you converse? how weakly will you discourse! how imprudently will you deal? how contemptibly will you live among a staid and discreet people, wiser than you in their Generation?

The Goodness of God having furnished Man with two chief Instruments, (saith an incomparable Man) both necessary for this Life, Hands to exercise, and a Mind to devise great things; the one is not profitable longer than the vigour of Youth doth strengthen it, nor the other greatly till Age and Experience have brought it to perfection.

S E C T. 2.

Of Debauched Men ordained, 1500.

OH, am I, as *Julian* blasphemed, the Sanctuary of all Profaness? Am I as a Refuge for all Licentiousness? Whom a strict College expels, whom the severe University discountenanceth, whom civil Men note with a mark of hatred and abhorrence, must I admit to my sacred Order, and honour my most solemn Ministrations? My care is, that each Minister should be of an *holy and unblameable Conversation*: What have these poor Creatures to do to take Gods Word held forth by me in their Mouths, seeing they hate to be reformed? O my Reverend Sons, what, do you bring a Man to teach the World a God and his Service, *Who is without God in the World?* —— What, do you send them to speak of that God *who is not in all their thoughts?* Why are they employed to propagate the Knowledge of God, who desire that the Knowledge of the Holy One may cease from them? To what purpose do they preach an holy Life, who never intend to live it? Why do they put those poor Souls to pray for those things of God, which they do not *desire*? to read that Bible which they do not believe? to bind those heavy burthens upon the people, which they themselves do

not intend to bear? to teach that on the Sabbath demurely, which they will contradict throughout the Week profanely? Is there any need of authorizing publick patterns of Impietiy? Do you intend to destroy what ye have built? I know you do not. Why then do you send lewd Ministers to teach men by an evil Example that Prophaneness which I have endeavoured to reform by my good Instruction? Wo is me, that I see those within me running to all excess of Riot, who are employed to teach a pure Religion, and undefiled before God. You, O Reverend Fathers, taught men to deny all ungodliness, and worldly Lusts, and live Soberly, Justly and Godly in this present world; and will you suffer men to go from among you, to teach all ungodliness and worldly Lusts? O alas! one man a Divine and a Beast? What, consecrated to God, and devoted to Sin! An Abomination in the Holy place! — *Behold, thou art called a Minister, and retest in the Law, and makest thy boast of God, and knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the Law; and art confident that thou thy self art a Guide to the Blind, a Light of them which are in Darkness, an Instructor of the Foolish, a Teacher of Babes, which hast the form of Knowledge, and of the truth in the Law; thou therefore that teachest another, teachest thou not thy self? Thou that preachest a Man should not Steal, dost thou Steal? Thou that sayest a Man should not commit Adultery, dost thou commit Adultery? Thou that abhorrest Idols, dost thou commit Sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the Law, through breaking the Law dishonourest thou God? for the Name of God is blasphemed among the People through you.*

S E C T. 3.

Of Unlearned Men Ordained.

I Am ashamed that that Ignorance which formerly found *Preferment*, should now find *Orders* too; and that I should settle them legally in that Calling, whereunto I always said they had illegally intruded themselves. It was too much to *suffer* that daring Ignorance to *usurp* the sacred Office, much more to consecrate it to it. The late Miscarriages want nothing to compleat them, but to be *hallowed*. The Catholick Church never entertained a Ministry but what was qualified either with extraordinary Gifts from above, or with Humane Learning from below; by which the mind being *instructed* and *improved* in all the riches of Wisdom and Knowledge, which are part of the Glory and Image of God in Man; by this Learning all truths are clearly unfolded. How do you think poor Souls can clear divine truths, lying hid in the depth, darkness and ambiguity of Original words, without skill in Languages? How can they attain the genuine and emphatick sense of the Word of God without skill in the Original Words and Phrases? How can they maintain the Truths I have Established, and Confute the Errors I have Condemned? How can they detect the Fallacies with which my poor

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People

People are deluded, and convince the Gain-fayers with which I am troubled, and discover those Sophisms in which poor Souls wrap themselves, *darkning Wisdom with Words without Understanding*, without the art of sound reasoning? How can they convey the Holy Truths they are furnished with to others, without an holy Eloquence, a sacred Perswasion and Rhetorick, which may commend them to Mens Minds, and enforce them upon their Hearts? How can they satisfy themselves and others in the Controversies of this Age, without the Observations, Histories and Customs of former Ages; and standing in the ways, and asking for the old way, which is the good way, and walk therein, so find rest for their Souls?

How is it possible for those poor Creatures to understand sundry passages of Scripture, depending upon propriety of Words and Idioms, or upon the Customs, Rites, Proverbs, Forms, Usages, Laws, Offices and Antiquities of the *Affyrian, Persian, Greek and Roman* Governments, without a competent portion of Humane Learning? My Religion was as the Kings Daughter, all glorious within; attended on by Arts and Sciences, those Handmaids who cloathed her with Garments wrought with Needle-work of divers Colours, embroidring her with Pathetick Elegancies, with solid Eloquence and Orations, with Sublimity and Gravity, with Method and Acuteness, with excellent Morals, and useful Observations of a very sober sense. But now, alas, it's exposed to a prophane world, with the ridiculous impertinencies and foolish adventures of men Zealous, but not according to Knowledge. What empty Discourses do I hear? what incoherent Notions do I read? what vain Trifles am I troubled with? what pilfering Learned Mens Works do I endure? O what abundance of things should a Minister understand! O what a great Defect is it to be Ignorant of them! O how much do we miss a competent Knowledge in ordinary Ministers, 1. To satisfy themselves and others exactly in the true and original will of God: 2. To explain and unfold the Words in which Gods will is originally expressed, and to endeavour by all means a right notion and conception of them, as they are to be understood in the Scripture. 3. To shew exactly what are those Saving Truths which are naturally contained in those Words so explained. 4. To confirm those Truths, so drawn out of the Scripture, by such evident Arguments and powerful Reasons as may establish the true Believer, and convince the Gain-fayer. 5. To press those Truths so made manifest upon men with that power, that they may have their proper influence and efficacy upon mens Hearts and Lives. The Honest Men that are industrious, I would willingly encourage, provided they have (what I wished always, and shall now expect in all my Priests and Deacons,) Solidity, Gravity, Modesty, Piety, and some favour of Learning, joyned with Humility and Zeal, with Humanity; some methods of intelligible Reason, and profitable Scripture Divinity. — The Law was published by *Moses*, learned in all the

the Learning of the Egyptians: the Gospel was propagated by St. Paul, bred up at the feet of Gamaliel, in all the varieties of Heathenish and Jewish knowledge: the Primitive Fathers (as Clemens Alex. Eusebium, Tertullian, St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, Minutius Felix, Lactantius, and others) maintained the Faith so propagated, by their comprehensive Learning. Therefore I have taken care that none should be admitted to Holy Orders, but they who are approved by Sober and Wise Men, as *who have given themselves wholly to these things*; that their profiting may appear unto all, as men of whom there is some hope, because of their promptness of Wit, quickness of Conceit, fastness of Memory, clearness of Understanding, soundness of Judgment, and readiness of Speech; that they may in time, by Art, Industry, Experience, and observation, become skilful Linguists, subtle Disputants, copious Orators, exact Critics, comprehensive Historians, profound Divines, and powerful Preachers; that throughout the three Kingdoms I may have those that may settle the People rightly, instruct the ignorant clearly, satisfy the Doubtful fully, meet with the Seducers skilfully, and promote Piety and Peace successfully. As the times now are, wherein Learning aboundeth even unto Wantonness, and wherein the world is full of Questions, Controversies, Novelties and Niceties in Religion, and wherein most of our Gentry and People (by the advantage of long Peace, and the customs of modern Education, together with a multitude of English Books) are able to look through the Ignorance of a Clergyman, and censure it, if he be tripping in any point of History, Cosmography, Moral or Natural Philosophy, Divinity or the Arts; yea, and to chastise his very Method and Phrase, if he speaks loosely or impertinently, or but improperly: I say, as these times are, I must not admit any Clergy-men without a competency of Learning; as who may endeavour by their Prayers, Care and Industry to improve the Learning they have, so as they may be able upon good occasion to impart a spiritual Gift to the People of God, whereby they may be established, and to speak with such Understanding, Sufficiency, and Pertinency, in some good measure of proportion to the quickness and ripeness of these present times; shewing in their Doctrine, Uncorruptness, Gravity, Sincerity, *Sound Speech which cannot be condemned; that they which are of the contrary Party may be ashamed, having no evil to say of them.* I, whose Clergy professed to use, and prayed to God to bless their long Preparative Studies, Meditations, Writings, Readings, habitually to fit them for that dreadful work, and for every actual discharge of it; I am ashamed of those poor Smatterers, who have gathered a few raw and indigested Notions, either by superficial Reading of the Scriptures, or by Hearing some Sermons, or by gleanings a little here and there from the plainest Writings, (without any Critical, Historical, or Polemical Learning,) who are fit implements to bring in such Ignorance, Irreverence, Atheism, Superstition and Confusion, as

shall quite put out the Christian and Reformed Religion in this Nation, (reducing all to the ancient Darknes, Looseness and Barbarousness (which hath been established by Persons of real Abilities, of good Learning, sound Knowledge, sober Judgments, orderly Method, grave Utterance, and weighty Eloquence; which all wise and sober Christians expect should appear in every true Minister of the Church of Christ, in such a competent measure and evident manner, as they may be able *comfortably to discern them, and usefully to enjoy them.* I am ashamed to see a Roll of Four Hundred and Six and Twenty Trades-men, who, 1. out of desultory restlessness, 2. out of Covetousness and Ambition, 3. out of sullenness and discontent, 4. out of Pride and Envy, having intruded in former years into the sacred Calling of a Minister, are now *ordained* to it, I am ashamed that my Authority should consecrate their Extravagancies; and that what I looked upon as the misery of late times, should be *allowed* in this; that I should countenance vain men that run from that Calling wherein they are called, and usurp the Office, Honour and Authority of that Sacred Priesthood and Evangelical Ministry, instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ, as sent of God the Father: A Mischief that greatly threatneth the Church and State, Faith and good Manners, all things Civil as well as Sacred. O what wise and honest-hearted Protestant (that hath any care of posterity, or prospect for the future) finds not a sad despondency, with an holy impatience arising in his Soul, while he seeth so many weak Shoulders, such unwashed Hands, such unprepared Feet, such rash Heads, such empty Souls, publicly intruding themselves upon all Holy Duties, all Sacred Offices, all Solemn Mysteries, all Divine Ministrations, with equal insolencies and insufficiency, being for the most part so much the more Impudent, by how much they are grossly Ignorant; in whom you cannot discern any either rational or religious, orderly or honest Expressions in any degree proportionable to what was observable in my most solid Ministers, my most acute Scholars, and most profound Divines, who have been hitherto my *Support and Ornament.* Certainly (Reverend Fathers) you will not so debase and undervalue the Evangelical Offices of Christ, as to admit every Self-flatterer and Obtruder presently to officiate, without any due examination or approbation from those with whom that Commission and Power hath been ever deposited in a regular and visible succession from Christ, the great Exemplar or Original: although (duely considering the diversities of Gifts from the same Spirit) you are not to exclude any modest Person, (though of meaner parts and less improved Education) if he be of Ingenious Education, of Pious Affections, and an orderly Life) from a place in Christs Ministry, where one may Sow, another may Reap, according to the several Dispersations and Gifts of the same God, who worketh all and in all.

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CHAP. III.

The Church of England's Resentment of Scandalous Profanefs.

OH you, my Sons, why do you these things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. Oh, Sirs, my God above looks upon you, and is provoked; the blessed Angels see you their fellow-servants, (for you are a Spectacle to God and Angels) and are grieved; wicked men observe you, and blaspheme God; good Men behold you, and are *ashamed*. Is it for this that you are delivered, that you may work *Wickedness*? Hath God punished you, and will you yet sin more and more? Will not twelve years sufferings reform? Will not twenty years reproaches awake you? Will not Miracles of Judgment deter you from evil? Will not Miracles of Mercy oblige you to good? Oh, despise you the Riches of Gods *Goodness* towards you, not knowing that the *Goodness* of God should lead you to *Repentance*? But after your hardness and impenitency of Heart, will you treasure up more *wrath* against another day of wrath? Is this the return you make to a gracious God, to dishonor him? Is this your kindness to me, to undo me? Is this your gratitude for the publick Favours of King and Parliament, to be utterly unworthy? Religion hath honoured you with an high Calling; you betray it: Your Prince vouchsafed you Royal Favours, you shame him: Honest People afforded you their Pity and Compassion; you deceive them. Is this your kindness to your Friends?

I saw indeed the late scandalous Centuries, but I neglected them as slanders and calumnies: I heard the late complaints and outcries, but slighted them as I do Envy, Malice and Hatred. Dreadful things were dayly suggested against you; great things were dayly offered for you; the Faction reviled, the Orthodox maintained you; sober men writ for you, but now you confute them; holy men excused you, but you contradict them; good and great men spoke for you; but who will now believe them? Must you needs justify Malice it self? Must you needs justify what Uncharitableness it self durst not suggest against you? Do you hear what they say, — *There, there go your Ministers*? If you hear not what they say, see what they are: You are the Salt of the Earth; if the Salt now lose its favour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth *good for nothing* but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. You are the Salt; yet, how unfavoury? you are the Light of the World, and do you walk as the Children of Light? Are you *burning*, are you *shining* Lights? Oh your Carelesness! Oh your Indifferency in matter of Religion! Oh how negligently you do the work the Lord, while you know God is serious in the Word he speaks, in the Judgments he inflicts, in the Mercies he bestows! When you know Christ is serious in redeeming Souls, the Holy Spirit is serious in sanctifying them, the Devil is serious in undoing them; the whole Creation is serious round about you. How you trifle
with

with immortal Souls! How you play with the great and terrible work of the Ministry! How formally do you pray! How unconcernedly do you preach! How vainly and unprofitably do you discourse! how unevenly do you walk! What, do you speak for Eternity? Do you preach for Immortality? Are you sent of God? Are you here to save Souls? and yet *Gallio-like*, care for none of those things? Wo is me, to see you walk in the Counsel of the ungodly, stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of the scornful; whose delight should be in the Law of the Lord, in whose Law you should meditate day and night! What, the same laugh at Religion and preach it! The same Soul droll upon serious Holiness in Company, and yet urge it in the great Congregation! What, persuade Men to Vertue in the Pulpit, and laugh Men out of it in the Parlour! Where is that serious Holiness that crowned, that solemn Gravity that adorned, that severe Vertue that advanced my sober Ministers, my reverend Pastors, and holy Men? Where is thy pious Spirit, devout *Hall*! where is thy gracious Temper, excellent *Usher*! where is thy even and settled Frame, serious *Hammond*! where is thy vertuous Deportment famous *Morton*! where is thy rational, well-weighed and stayed Soul, O venerable *Sanderfon*! In *England*, as in *Rama*, there is a Voice heard, Lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning; I, as *Rachel*, weeping for my excellent Children: but they are not. Wo is me for your *Covetousness*, O ye my Sons, that you instruct Men for another world, yet look not beyond this; that you who are sent to teach men to live by Faith, should yet live by Sense; that you who teach Faith the evidence of things not seen, should yet eye only the things which are seen. Oh shame! Self-denial is the great duty you enjoyn, Self-seeking is the great sin you are guilty of. Love not the World, is one of the most remarkable Axioms of your Religion; Love the World, is the considerable rule of your lives. I have coveted no *Man's Silver or Gold*, saith the Apostle: Oh what say you? I seek not yours, but you, saith he: I seek not you, but yours, say you. Neither at any time used I a cloak for Covetousness, God is my Witness, saith the Apostle: Oh, what you have done, God and Men are witnesses. Give me the Souls, (saith *Abraham*) take thou the Goods: Give us the Goods, (say you) take you the Souls. Is to live to Christ in this sense, thy Gain? Is to dy to him, thy Advantage? Alas! alas!

Oh your debauched courses, (you vile and fordid Souls!) An holy Calling, and an unholy Life! Spiritual persons, and yet live after the *Flesh*! a clean Garment and an unclean Heart! Servants of God, and yet Servants of Sin! Reverend in your Function, and yet shameful in your Lives! A Minister, and yet given to wine! A Priest, and yet wanton! in holy Orders, and yet in riotous Disorder! walk circumspectly, and yet reel! a Man devoted to the Study and the Closet, in chambering and wantonness! conversation in Heaven, and in Ale-houses and Taverns! study Eternity, and yet trifle away time! stand at the Communion of Saints, yet sit down in the company of Scorners! Oh these things ought not to be.

Thus

Thus *vile* you are, and yet you are *proud*; thus *dishonouring* your selves, and yet *ambitious*. *Learn of me*, (saith Christ) *for I am meek and lowly*: look upon you, you are proud and Lordly. I made you Ministers for the Service of Souls, you advance your selves to be Rulers. I taught every Soul of you to be subject; you are impatient of Subjection. Humility and Meekness was the Glory of my Ministers; Haughtiness and Pride is your shame. Were you raised by the favour God and Men lately, to be high now? God remembered, and Man pitied you in your low estate; God will remember, and Man will punish you in your high estate. You humbled your selves, and you were exalted; you exalt your selves, and you may be made low. Oh the Pride that composeth your Sermons, that contrives your Designs, that fills your Thoughts, that formeth your Countenances, that putteth the Accents and Emphasis on your Words, that ordereth your Habit, modelleth your Gestures; that makes you aim at your selves in all you do, and forget God; when you should aim at God, and forget your selves. Shall Ministers that bring Men to Heaven, live in Pride, that cast Angels to Hell?

You are proud, poor Souls, and ye must be *contentious* too: Ambassadors of Peace ye are, yet in Strife and Envy: you profess a Gospel of peace, yet what Emulation? what Wrath? Christ left Peace among you when he went to Heaven, shall he find peace when he returns from Heaven? Oh no: though Religion obligeth you to Peace, although Divisions have undone us, although Truth be almost lost, the Power of Godliness be decayed, good Men be grieved, I be endangered; though Enemies be encouraged, and Atheism be promoted by your unhappy differences; yet still you quarrel, still you dispute. Why do you strive, seeing ye are Brethren? Have you not one God? Have you not one Faith? Have you not one Baptism? Have you not one Hope? Oh why do you not keep the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace? Why these Jealousies, these Fears, these Distances, these Bitternesses? I mark them which cause Divisions contrary to the Truth and Peace I always owned, and shall avoid them. Bishop *Usher* proposed what was moderate, you hearkened not; Bishop *Davenant* writ peaceably, you read him not; Bishop *Sanderson* offered modestly you regarded him not: Many sober Men offered healing Principles agreeable to the Concessions on all hands, yet they are neglected: God himself united you in your Miseries, yet you disagree in your Judgments; he joyned you in Sufferings, yet you divide your selves in his Service. O tell it not in *Gath*, publish it not in *Askelon*, — That Ministers of the Gospel disagree among themselves, and head and lead their People to Disagreements. What, shall a Minister live and not love? How do you read? How is it written? Is it not, *Follow peace with all men as much as in you lieth, if it be possible*? Do not you read, do not you preach thus? Oh why do you not live thus? Yea, there is utterly a fault among you, that you fall out with your Neighbours. Now there

is utterly a fault among you, *That you go* : neither : I speak
this to your shame : Why do not you rather : *g? why do not you*
suffer your selves to be defrauded? How pre : *now read you?*
is it not, that ye resist not evil? and if any : *will sue thee at Law,*
and take away thy Coat, give him thy Cloak also. *he is a wise man, and*
endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversati-
on his Works with Meekness and Wisdom : but if you have bitter Envyings
and Strifes in your Hearts, glory not, and lie not against the Truth. This
Wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual and devilish : For
where Envyng and Strife is, there is Confusion and every evil Work : but
the Wisdom which is from above, is first pure, and then peaceable, gentle,
easie to be intreated, full of Mercy and of good Works, without partiality,
without Hypocrisie ; and the Fruit of Righteousness is sown in Peace of them
that make Peace.

Well, if you go on professing Religion indifferently, doing the
 work of God negligently ; if you carry on only a form of Godliness
 hypocritically ; if you live without the Grace of God within you pro-
 fanely ; if you live without the Fear of God before you loosely ; if
 you live without the Love of God uncharitably ; if you live against
 your Profession shamefully : farewell the most flourishing Church, fare-
 wel Ordinances, farewell Ministry, farewell Comforts, farewell Blessings,
 farewell our Glory, farewell our God ; and wo unto us when he is de-
 parted from us.

Oh my Sons, hearken to this one Wish ; and Oh that it be not my
 last ! — For Gods sake, for your own sake, for my sake, for three
 Kingdoms sake, for our gracious Kings sake, for the sake of late Pa-
 sterity,

TAKE HEED TO YOUR SELVES:

1. That you want not that Grace you offer others ; that when you
 save others, you perish not as Cast-a-ways your selves. Oh feel the
 power of that Religion you preach, and preach the power you feel :
Be what you perswade others to be.

2. *Take heed to your selves,* and consider what manner of men ye ought
 to be in all holy Conversation and Godliness.

3. *Take heed to your selves,* that you pull not down with a wicked
 Life, what you build up with an holy Doctrin. If there be no such
 thing as Religion, preach it not ; if there be, live it : If a loose Life
 may be allowed, do not preach against it ; and if it may not be al-
 lowed, do not live it ; be not deceived, and deceive not others. Do
 you know the Judgment of God, that all that commit such things as
 you do, are worthy of Death? Then why do you do them ? If
 not, why do you preach the other ? Oh preach exactly, and live ex-
 actly : as you *think* all the week how to *speak* upon Sunday, so *resolve*
 upon Sunday how to live all the week. How curiously you preach!
 O how carelessly you live !

4. Take

4. *Take heed to your selves*, and walk wisely towards them that are without; that whereas they speak evil of you, they may be ashamed, considering the nature and end of your conversation.

Oh *take heed to your selves*: You have many eyes upon your infirmities; you have many spectators of your falls, to find, to aggravate, and to publish them: God forbid that you should do evil in the eyes of the whole World; the good part whereof watcheth on your Vertues, to Imitate you; the evil part watcheth on your Vices, to traduce you: You are as Lights upon an Hill, O walk as in the Light.

Take heed to your selves; if not for others, yet for your own immortal Souls. Oh Preach not of Heaven, and fall short of it; Oh Preach not of Hell, and fall into it; of Grace and Duty, and yet live without them.

Oh *take heed to your selves*. Vigilant is your Temper, Great are your Tryals, many are your Temptations, much the Opposition you will meet; for weighty is your Work: You destroy the power of Satan; you engage the powers of Hell: Oh take heed to your selves.

Oh *take heed to your selves*. You have the same Nature with others, but you commit not the like Sins with others: The Sins that dwell in you are the same with other Men, the Sins that are committed by you are greater than other Mens: Oh watch then over your evil Nature, take care of your great Transgressions: 1. Against knowledge, wilfully: 2. Against your trust, unfaithfully: 3. Against your profession, hypocritically: 4. Against others, very offensively; against the Honour of God and his ways, very dangerously; *who is blasphemed by the ignorant and ungodly through you.*

Take heed to your selves, that you may be blessed in your undertaking. Let your ways please God, as you hope God will bless your ways. — If not for your own, yet for other mens Souls sake take heed to your selves: Speak from your Hearts to their Hearts: Be not intangled by sin, that you may be able to speak against sin. Oh *do as you Preach*, that the World may see you *mean as you Preach*.

Oh Reverend Fathers, enjoyn my wholsom Canons severely, visit mens lives and carriages exactly, oversee the Flocks over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, carefully: Pity Religion that is dying; pity me that am decaying, pity your selves that are again falling. Reform my Clergy, and you are safe; neglect them, and you perish: Keep up the life and practice of Religion, and that will keep you: If the Power of Religion be lost, the Profession of it will; your Calling will fail, your Order will fail; and God knows *what will be the end thereof*: I fear nothing but Sin, I want nothing but true Grace eminent in all my Ministers, whereby they may Please God, adorn the Gospel, convince Gainsayers, and reform the World.

Have you not enjoyned, That no Ecclesiastical persons shall at any time, *Can. 75.* other than for their honest necessities, resort to any Taverns or Ale-houses, neither shall they Board or Lodge in any such place? Furthermore, they shall not

give themselves to any base or servile labour, or to Drinking or Rycing, spending their Time idly by day or night, playing at Dice, Cards, or Tables, or any other unlawful Games: But at all times convenient they shall hear or read somewhat of the Holy Scriptures, or shall occupy themselves with some other honest study or exercise, always doing the things which shall appertain to honesty, and endeavouring to profit the Church of God; having always in mind that they ought to excel all others in purity of Life, and should be examples of the People to live well, and Christianly, under pain of Ecclesiastical censures to be inflicted with severity, according to the qualities of their offences.

C H A P. III.

The Church of England's Complaint against unconscionable Symony.

IN your courses, O ye my Sons, fear of Authority may deter you, Conscience may check you, strict Laws may restrain you, a severe oversight may reform you: In this strange, in this sad miscarriage of Symony, I have made *Laws*, yet you transgress them: I have enacted, 31 of Q. E. 6. "That if any Persons, bodies Politick or Corporate, shall or do at any time for any sum of Mony, Reward, Gift, Profit or Benefit, directly or indirectly, or for or by reason of any Promise, Grant, Bond, Covenant, or other Assurances of or for any sum of Mony, Reward, Gift, Profit, or Benefit whatsoever, directly or indirectly, present or collate any Person to any Benefice with Cure of Souls, Dignity, Prebend, or Living Ecclesiastical; or give or bestow the same for or in respect of any such corrupt cause or consideration; that then every such Presentation, Collation, Gift, &c. should be utterly void, and of none effect in Law; and that any person accepting of any Ecclesiastical promotion upon such sordid accounts, shall be judged a disabled person in Law to have or enjoy any Benefice, Dignity, Prebend, or Living Ecclesiastical.— Yet still you truck for Livings, you market for Benefices; still you buy and sell in the Temple: This abomination is still forbidden, and yet still allowed; my *Canons* tie from it by an *Oath*, yet you venture. You swear thus:

Can. 40. *I, N. N. do swear, That I have made no Simoniack payment, contract or promise, directly or indirectly, by my self, or by any other to my knowledg, or with my consent, to any person or persons whatsoever, for or concerning the procuring and obtaining of this Ecclesiastical Dignity, Place, Preferment, Office or Living, nor will at any time hereafter perform or satisfie any such kind of payment, contract or promise made by any other without my knowledg or consent. So help me God through Jesus Christ.*

Yet you do it. Oh you men of God, can you forswear this abominable Sin, and yet commit it? Will you publicly disown it before God and the Church, and yet own it between your selves and your Patrons? Shall not
God

God search out this ? These things you do, and God keeps silence : You think he is altogether such a one as your selves . Ah, he ! he will reprove you ; he will set your sins in order before you . Oh consider this, ye that in this forget God ! Oh be sure your Sins shall find you out . Shall a man take the Name of God in vain, and be *guiltless* ? Shall a man break his solemn Oath, and be delivered ? *Shall he escape* that doth such things ? Shall he prosper ? How will you look that God in the Face in Prayer, whom you have blasphemed in your Oath ? How can you behold that Congregation that knows you are forsworn ? What, Preach the Word of God, and regard not the Oath of God ! What, gain a Parsonage, and lose thy Soul ! To attain to a Preferment, shall you hazard more than the whole World ?

1. Have you never read that in *Act. 8. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.* And when Simon saw that through laying on of the Apostles hands, the holy Ghost was given, he offered them *MONEY*, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy Money perish with thee, because that thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with Money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter : For thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness ; and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thy heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of Iniquity. You will say,

Object. You buy not any gift or grace, as Simon would have done ; but some encouragement to exercise your gifts and your graces.

Sol. Alas ! is it not the gift of God you buy ? Are Tythes of God, or are they not ? If they are not, why do you challenge them ? If they are of God, why do you buy them of men ? Shall a man rob God ? Yet ye have robbed me, even this whole Nation. They say, wherein have we robbed God ? In Tythes and Offerings. The Lay-patron takes from God, and you take from him : He steals from God, you receive from him. Is it his ? Why do you say Tythes belong only to Ministers ? Is it the Ministers ? Why do you pay him for it ? Why do you justify his encroachment, betray God's right, wrong me, and undo your selves ? Who goeth to warfare at his own charge ? You do it. Do ye not know that they who minister about Holy things, live of the things of the Temple ? And that so the Lord hath ordained, that they that Preach the Gospel, should live of the Gospel ?

Object. I deal not with the Patron himself, you will say.

Sol. Oh be not deceived ! God is not mocked : what you do by others, you do your selves : Simon himself went not to God, whose the holy Ghost was, but to Peter, one of the Stewards of the manifold gifts of God.

Object. I am only civil to the Steward.

Ans. How read you, *2 Kings 5. 20.* &c. Gehazi the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, behold, my Master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought : But as the Lord liveth I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. So Gehazi followed after

him : And when *Naaman* saw him running after him, he lighted down from the Chariot to meet him, and said, is all well ? And he said, All is well : My Master hath sent me, saying, behold, even now there be come to me from Mount *Ephraim* two young men of the sons of the Prophets : Give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And *Naaman* said, be content, take two talents ; and he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants, and they bare them before him. And when he came to the Tower, he took them from their hand ; and bestowed them in the house ; and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his Master : And *Elisha* said unto him, Whence comest thou, *Gehazi* ? And he said, thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee ? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and olive-yards, and vine-yards, and sheep, and oxen, and men-servants, and maid-servants ? The leprosie therefore of *Naaman* shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

Object. Yes, let *Gehazi* look to that.

Sol. Is it a sin in him to receive a gift, and is it not a sin in you to give ?

Object. I only laid a wager, bought a horse, married my Patrons Daughter, or gave bond to resign.

Sol. Fie, fie ! Are you called to be Ministers ? Do your duty, you may look for your due, and make no terms with men for what God freely gives you. Will you add a cheat to your Sacriledg ? Rob God, and put a trick upon the Law ? Is this, is this to obey for conscience sake ?

Object. I only bought an Advowson.

Sol. If you cannot buy a Living when it is void, how can you buy it over another man's head when it is not ? What do you aim at in the Advowson ? Do you aim at the good of Souls ? Those Souls are provided for already. Do you aim at the benefit of the place ? Oh unworthy man ! What, embrace the present world ! Is the Tythe a Ministers ? What need you buy it aforehand ? Is it the Peoples ? Why do you take it at all ?

2. And is the Church grown so contemptible, that it may be bought and sold for Money ? Is Preferment rather a prize for the Richest, than a Reward for the Worthiest ? Who will spend their days in serious study, and their life in wearisom retirement, and their estates in a chargeable education, and at last must either buy their preferment, or live neglected, and die unobserved ? What ingenious man can endure tedious Allowance, unsupportable Fees, intolerable Baffles, and not retire to his Closet, and there give himself to despondency and despair, cursing the day wherein he was Born, and the years wherein he was bred up ; saying, as *Elijah* secretly to his Soul, Lord, it is enough, take away my life, since I have out-lived the Glory of the Church, the Honour of my Calling, the Encouragement of Parts and Worth ! — I cannot live usefully ; Oh that I might die comfortably !

Have I no true Ministers, but a Generation of *Demas's*, that embrace the present World? Have I no Ministers called of God, that will live upon God? None that can trust God with their Maintenance? Will you all crow for the Priest's Office only, that you may eat a morsel of Bread? Will you all degrade your selves, and buy and sell your sacred Persons and Employments? Justly would the Catholick Church have degraded you, *Gan. ap. 10. Conc. Chalc. 2. Conc. Atras. 14.* And will you go on making Merchandize of the Word? And will you go on in the Ministry, out of filthy Lucre, and not of a ready Mind?

Thus, thus are my worthy Sons laid aside, the unworthy are promoted, my People perish, my Religion decays, my Enemies break in upon me, and I have only here and there one to stand by me. The *Weak*, the Scandalous that came in by Simony, betray me. Oh sacred Majesty! O ye the honourable Nobility! O ye worthy Gentlemen, let it be your Honour that you can dispose of Livings to the Glory of God, the Honour of the Church, and your own Comfort! Let it be your shame that you make any advantage of your Livings, to the dishonour of God, the danger of the Church, and the ruin of Souls. Oh ye Ingenious Ministers, content your selves rather that you deserve Preference, than endeavour to enjoy them in this vile, unworthy and dangerous way! Never stoop to these low terms, be rather buried in an honest privacy, than appear with a publick infamy. *Non senunc & olim sic erit.* Oh sacred and august Authority of King and Parliament, own your former Laws; vindicate your Authority; meet, meet this threatening mischief; set a watch upon Patrons and their Stewards; frown upon the Reaching Clergy; find out the Panders of Simony that lie about Town, and set up as it were an Office for Abomination! Take heed, Oh ye Patrons, how you lay the Child's Portion in a Parsonage, and devour that which is Holy; and after that make enquiry; forcing the hopeful Youth to begin with Perjury, and commence with Sacrilege. Oh! words fail me: I must leave with you the excellent *Jewel's* words to Queen *Elizabeth*, a 561.

The Livings of such as are in the Ministry, are not in their hands to whom they are due: They seldom pass now adays from the Patron, if he be no better than a Gentleman, but either for the Lease or present money. Such Merchants are broken into the Church of God, a great deal more intolerable than were they whom Christ whipt out of the Temple. Thus they who should be careful for Gods Church, that should be Patrons to provide for the consciences of the people, and to place among them a learned Minister, who might be able to preach the Word to them in season and out of season, and to fulfil his Ministry, seek their own, and not that which is Jesus Christs; they serve not Jesus Christ, but their Belly: And this is done not in one County, in one place, but throughout all England. Oh merciful God, whither will this grow at the last? If the misery which this Plague worketh, would reach but to one Age, it were tolerable; it will be

a Plague to Posterity; it will be the decay and desolation of Gods Church. Young men see this, and they are weary and discouraged, they direct their Studies another way. I know your Grace heareth not of these matters; and I hope God will work in your gracious heart some Remedies against them: for otherwile the Schools will be forsaken, the Church desolate, the People wild and disobedient, the Gospel discredited; and this noble Realm, which ever was famous for the name of Learning, likely to come to such ignorance and barbarity, as hath not been heard of in any memory before our time. Poor souls are destitute without a Guide, the afflicted in Consciences have none to quiet them; they grow wild and savage as a people that hath no God; they are commanded to change their Religion, and for lack of Instruction they know not whither to turn them. Oh if the Kingdom of God be not worthy to be promoted, yet the Kingdom of Satan is worthy to be overthrowen.

Oh our Posterity shall rue, that ever such Fathers went before them; and Chronicles will report this miscarriage; they shall leave it written in whole time and in whole reign this was done. O! if we grow so barbarous that we consider not this, or be not able to draw it into Chronicle; yet foreign Nations will not spare to write this, and publish it to our everlasting reproach and shame. By these means Foreign Power, which by Gods mercy this Realm is delivered from, shall be brought upon us; such things shall be done to us, as we before suffered: the Truth of God shall be taken away; the holy Scripture burnt and consumed in fire; a marvellous Darkness and Calamity must needs ensue.

Oh that your Grace might behold the miserable disorder of Gods Church! O! that you might see the Calamities that will ensue! It is a part of your Kingdom, and such a part, as is the prop and stay of the rest. I will say to your Majesty, as Cyrillus sometimes said to the godly Emperors Theodosius and Valentinian: *Ab ea quæ erga Deum est pietate, reip. vestræ status pender.* You are our Governour, you are the Purse of Gods Church: We must open this before you; and God knoweth whether it may be redressed, it is let grown so long, it is gone so far: but if it may be redressed, there is no other but your Highness that can redress it.

The Definition of Simony.

Simony is an intente desire or purpose to buy or sell a spiritual Living, or any Corporal thing annexed to the Church.—*Grat. dist. 1. p. 2. 91. Zanch. de inter. cultu. Concil. comp. Sess. 53. dec. cont. Nic. Can. 1. 96.*

C H A P. I V.

The Church of England's Complaints against Encroaching Pluralities.

IS your Portion, Oh my Sons, in this life, or is it in another? Is the Satisfaction your immortal Souls look for, in the empty, vain, low and

and perishing contents of this World, or in the full, high and everlasting Enjoyments of the other World? If in this life you have hope only, you are of all Men the most miserable, the most contemptible, and most deceitful: If in another, why so many Imperial Laws, so many Ecclesiastical Canons, so many Decrees of Councils, so many severe Reproofs from Fathers and Casuists, so many complaints and Reproaches, so many Laws and Injunctions, so many Attempts and Endeavours in Parliament these sixty years against your Monopolie of Livings and Pluralities of Benefices? Why do you heap upon your selves this envy? Why do you provoke these Reproaches? I provided for you liberally; I checked those that opposed your Maintenance, seasonably; I encouraged your Industry and Merit carefully, beyond any reformed Church in the World; I restored you to your Rights handsomely; I secured your Rights legally. Will not this satisfy you? Will not this content you?

1. It's but lately that you were thought incapable of one Living; and now three, four, five, cannot suffice you. It's not long since you wanted Necessaries, and do you now heap up Superfluities? Lately you could not provide for your Families Wants, and do you now provide for their Excess and Pride? Have you forgot how lately you grasped all, and you lost all? Alas! Alas!

2. And will you eat the bread out of your poor Brethrens mouths, and will you starve your fellow-servants? Are you Ministers? So are they. Are you Orthodox? So are they. Are you Loyal? So are they. Have you been constant? So have they. Are you serviceable to the Church? They more; *in labours more abundant*. Oh how many excellent men who out-liv'd the late Miseries, Articles, Committees, Sequestrations, Protections, Covenants, Engagements, *lingring out their lives*, laden, and almost oppressed, worn out, and quite tired with the burthen of years, cares, fears, labours, necessities and afflictions, are now fain to die in obscurity, want and contempt, as if the Sons of the Church of England wanted only this to make up the measure of their sufferings, *That they should be undone when the Church is restored*! How many hundreds sober and able men are laid aside, and contemned by some as Orthodox, and despised by others as poor? Whom the People would relieve, but that they are faithful to me; whom I would relieve, but that I am swallowed up by you. When you look big with your abundance and superfluity, and glory in your preferments, how many hundred able and sober men are ashamed of their Order and Function, are wrapped up in poverty and discontent, and lost in poor employments, and poorer encouragements? Whose faithful labours I want, whose sober conversations might honour me, whose diligence and care might restore me, whose reason and learning might uphold me, whose powerful preaching might establish me, whose self-denial and devotedness to publick good might save me. Alas! Sirs, *let none of you think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but so think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of his faith; for as you have many members in one body, and*

all members have not the same office; so I being made of many, am one body in Christ, and every one in me is member one of another. You, my Sons, having then gifts differing according to the grade that is given you, whether Propheſie, &c. why ſhall not they that propheſie be encouraged according to the proportion of Faith? or Miniſtry, why ſhould not all be encouraged that wait on the Miniſtry? or they that teach, on teaching? or they that exhort, on exhortation? The body is not one member, but many: Now hath God ſet the members in the body, as it pleaſeth him, and if they were all *one member*, where were the body? The eye cannot ſay to the head, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more thoſe members of the body which ſeem to be more *feeble*, are *neceſſary*; and thoſe *leſs honourable*, upon theſe we ought to beſtow more abundant honour. And our uncomely parts have a more abundant comelineſs: For our comely parts have no need; but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked, that there ſhould be no ſchism in the body, but that the members ſhould have the ſame care one for another. Now ye, my Sons, are the body of Chriſt, and members in particular: And God hath ſet ſome in the Church; firſt, Apoſtles; ſecondarily, Prophets; thirdly, Teachers: Are all Apoſtles? Are all Prophets? Are all Teachers? Are all provided for? Oh covet earneſtly, the beſt Gifts, not the beſt Livings! And yet I could ſhew you a more excellent way.

Why is that Preferment engroſſed by one, which might maintain twenty? Why are thoſe Revenues loſt upon the folly, vanity and ſuperfluity of one family, which might provide for the honeſt occaſions of five? Oh JUSTICE, the equal Diſtributer of Affairs, whither art thou fled! Oh EQUITY, whither art thou retired!

3. If you conſider not the ſin, do you conſider the conſequences of theſe miſcarriages; the envy that you already ſink under; the occaſion given unto them that ſeek occaſion, which hath already diſgraced you; the great diſcontent that already endangereth you? Have not you enemies to your Order, Calling and Judgment, and muſt you incenſe your friends? Muſt you provoke that God that hath hitherto upheld your Order and Function, by abuſing the maintenance he allows for his ſervice and ſervants to your own advantage? Muſt you diſpleaſe his ſacred Majeſty, by appropriating to a few ill beloved perſons, for whoſe ſake his Majeſty is thought the worſe of, that encouragement which might be equally beſtowed upon well-deſerving and well-beloved, who might in each Pariſh teach his ſubjects their duty faithfully, perſwade them to obedience ſucceſsfully, and ſettle them in the Doctrin of Government according to the great Principles of Chriſtianity, moſt happily? Muſt you provoke your Brethren of the Clergy to diſcontent, by taking up all the encouragements of their Studies, all their employments and hopes? How many hopeful young men in City and Country are forced either to want, or, which is worſe, to live upon your ſmall Penſions, and ſcant allowance; and, what is natural for Parts
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and Ingenuity, in want to despair their fortunes, and to envy yours? How readily do they now, hopeless of any Regular favour, apply themselves to popular Applause, that their Compliance may gain that among the people, which their Merit could not among you? Do not you see how the People forsake you, as Self-seekers; how the Gentry censure you as Unconscionable; how the Clergy abhor you, as Invaders of their places and preferments? Do you not see that the Law can hardly secure you; that Authority can scarcely defend you from all the affronts and baffles that Malice and Fury do suggest to an incensed People? The Adversaries triumph, the many Friends I have weep, the Sober and Serious are amazed to see fourscore or an hundred odious men filling up a whole Church. Do you imagine those many active men will rest in a dispirited, poor, mendicant, decayed, dejected, and vexatious condition? Do not you fear their melancholy thoughts, their retired contrivances, their forlorn meetings? You know there are none so dangerous as the *discontented Scholars*. *Monopoly* is the ruin of the State; *Pluralities* are the ruin of the Church: The one necessitates the indigent Subject to dangerous courses and practices; the other, the poor Scholar to as dangerous discourses and thoughts.

It is not enough that mens late malice and insolency against the Ministry reduced them to want and contempt, but that (to my shame, who am blessed of God with abundance and honour) one small part of the Ministry should reduce the other to small Contributions, poor Dependencies; so uncertain and so base, that men of ingenious spirits and learning must detest them, who cannot endure when they do their work to beg for their wages, not without fordid compliances and flatteries with vile men in their vilest humours? Oh look upon the poor Curates and their Families! What is their portion of the Prosperity we now enjoy? Alas, they live by God's mercy, and Mens charity. How despicable is their Calling? How little their Authority? How inconsiderable their Instructions? How successless their Doctrine? How uncreditable their Lives? Do not you see that your fellow-Ministers under these necessities will not long be able to assert the honour of their Calling; & that no after-Generation will succeed to inherit their poverty and pains, unless such as will further debase the Dignity of the Function? What, must all the industrious Ministers be Stipendiaries? The Faction threatned no more. Must they have only their allowances? Anarchy could have done no more. Are you restored to reduce your fellow-servants to that penury by a Law, which Fanaticks would have brought them to without Law? They wanted only this misery, to be undone by their Brethren, and perish by them of their own profession.

Object. *These poor men, you will say, are provided for answerable to their Parts.*

Ans. Have they Parts for the calling of Ministers; and have they not Parts for the maintenance of Ministers? Can they preach the Gospel, and can they not live by the Gospel? Are they worthy to discharge your Cures, and are they not worthy to enjoy them?

5. Do you desire the Advantage of so many Benefices, or do you desire the Charge? If the *Advantage*, then the poor Separatist was in the right, when he call'd you *Hirelings*; then indeed you make *merchandise of Souls*; then you are the greatest Juglers and Deceivers in the world; and you laugh among your selves, (as the *Thufcan* Soothsayers) and confer Notes, as that Pope with his Cardinal, saying, *How much gain doth this Fable of Christ bring us?*—And poor Souls should avoid you as the shadow of Death. What, shall I hear him whose Godliness is gain, whose God is his belly, whose Faith is advantage, whose Hope is only in this world? His Watchmen are blind, they are ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber: Yea, they are greedy dogs which can Never have enough, and they are Shepherds that cannot understand: They all look to their own way, every one for his gain from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch Wine, and we will fill our selves with strong Drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundantly, *Isa.* 56. 9, 10, 11, 12.

If the *Charge*, Do you know what you do? Do you know that you must watch over the Congregation as they that must give an account? So many Benefices, so many more hundreds of Souls that you must answer for? Do you know what it is to answer the great God for an immortal Soul? Do you know what it is to give an account of the purchase of Christ's blood? Do you know what is the work, what is the charge of a Minister? Oh poor Souls! You consider not whether some have not accused you to God, whom you never saw; whether Souls under your Charge are not daily going to another world, with doleful complaints against you, whom you never knew; whether any in Hell do not cry out against you, whom you never saw: Thousands have appeared before the Judgment-seat of God, excusing themselves with your faults, tho' you lay it not to heart; alledging, that they saw no more Religion in the world than Interest and Gain, they knew not what to do to be saved. Alas, you are not sensible that there may be hundreds in Hell that you looked not after, cursing the day that ever you were born, that ever you were sent into the world, that there should be so many Wretches that lived only to damn men. If it be a Charge you desire, why do you not attend unto that flock over which the Holy Ghost made you overseers? Why do you not in that calling wherein you are called abide with God? Is it possible for you to serve two Cures? You will hold to the one, and despise or neglect the other; and is it possible for you to be saved unless you serve both? Must ye needs do that which makes it impossible for you to be saved? Lord, what if you gained the world at the rate of undoing Souls? Do you consider that the bread you eat is the price of Souls; the drink you drink is the blood of Souls? How can you eat with comfort, and think, oh some of my Charge may be now going to Eternity, and I prepared them not? How can you sleep securely, and think, Some of my Charge may awake to morrow in another world, whether of woe or weal I know not? How can you die peaceably, and think, *Where shall we*

meet the many Souls that have gone before us out of our Congregations? Oh where are ye, O immortal Souls? With God, or for ever departed from the presence of the Lord! Oh did you ever read that of St. Bernard, *Qui non unus sed plures in beneficiis, non unus sed plures in suppliciis*? If you pity not me once again by these courses decaying, if you pity not poor Souls by this means perishing, Oh pity your selves, and have mercy upon your own Souls. Alas, that men should be educated chargeably, should study diligently, should be ordained solemnly to delude Souls, to mock God, to deceive the world, and undo men, for two, or three, or four hundred pounds yearly, during a short Life! That you should appear in a Pulpit (if yet you do appear in a Pulpit) for a little Maintenance! That you should appear very solemnly every Sunday, only to put a trick upon God and Men! I hope better things of you, and things that accompany Salvation, tho I thus speak. "In the Primitive times every Church of so many Souls as are of your Parishes, had many Ministers, whereof the ablest speakers did most in publick, and the rest did the more of the less publick work, (which some mistake for ruling Elders) but now one of you takes care of many Churches. The Popish times, I mean the Year 632, could divide England into Parishes, for the better discharging of the cure of Souls: Our times unite those Parishes again, for the better maintenance of pride and vanity. Is it for this that we are reformed? Is it for this we are Protestants? Then each Parish had their Ministers to Pray with them fervently, to Teach them faithfully, to Comfort them seasonably, to Converse with them usefully, to Relieve them charitably, to direct them carefully. Ah! *in qua nos reservamur tempora*! Now, now my People are neglected, my Buildings are ruined, my Hospitality is lost, my Authority is shrunk and fall'n, and the Church of England is thought to be nothing else but the Interest of a few crafty Clergymen, ordering all things to their best Advantage.

Though Envy may know, and Prejudice it self may consider, I am a Church made up of godly and religious Men: Princes, Nobles, Gentry, Bishops, Ministers and People, maintaining an Orthodox Doctrine, a Primitive Government, a pure and orderly Worship, a severe Discipline, and a Christian Communion in Word and Sacrament; who have forbid these extravagancies by wholesome Laws, checked them by severe Canons, and disallowed them by all fair and just means imaginable. In the darkest and most superstitious times, I ordered, *That no Monks, i. e. idle persons, should take Livings of Bishops, or appropriate the Revenues of them to themselves; but that the Priests serving in those Cures, and the Churches might be provided with necessities.*

Við. Seld.
in Ead.
Full. Cent.
12. p. 18.

Do you know why Monks were pulled down in H. 8. time? Lay it to heart, I beseech you; for many look for your fall too.

1. They were accused for ingrossing Wealth and Trade; and do you hear what the world saith of you? 2. They were accused for impoverishing Parish-Priests, by decrying Preaching, as ministring matter of Schisms

Hist. Ab.
2. p. 283.

and Disputes, and magnifying their own performances of Prayer and Devotion; by which, and other Artifices, they undermined the poor Priests, and procured that many Churches presentative, with their Glebes and Tythes, were appropriated to their Covents, leaving but a poor pittance for the *Parish-Vicar*. This was the occasion of the first *Impropriations*; I pray God your Carelessness doth not occasion another.

Oh remember *Robert Whirgifi's*, the Abbot of *Wellow's* speech, who was wont to say, *That they and their Religion could not long continue, because (said he) I have read the whole Scripture over and over, and never found that Monasteries (and I may add, Pluralities) were founded by God: For (said the honest Abbot) every planting which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.*

Do you remember that Lay-Parliament in King *H. 4.* his time, wherein the Nobles and Commons assembled signified to the King, That the Temporal possessions of Abbots, Priors, &c. vainly spent, would suffice to find 150 Earls, 1500 Knights, 6200 Esquires, 100 Hospitals? Do you remember those Mock-Parliaments that often considered how many 1000 Men your Tythes (ill bestowed upon you, as they thought) would maintain? You were once undone, — now are you made whole: I beseech you, my Sons, sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto you.

Bishop Jewel on 1 Thes. p. 71.

Forasmuch Brethren as we were kept from you for a season concerning sight, but not in heart, we are enforced the more to see your face with great desire. Therefore we would have come unto you, I *Paul*, at least once or twice; but Satan hindred us. Such a zeal and care had he over the people of God. Oh in what case then are they that are careless, and have no regard of the people of God! which hunt after Livings, and bend not themselves to do good! which serve their own belly, and seek to be rich, and eat up the people of God as if they were bread! They cannot say they have a desire to see the face of their Flock, and that their heart is with them: Howsoever they find time for other matters, they can never take time to know their Sheep, and to do the work of their Ministry among them: They care not for them, they think not of them; they plant not, they water not, they watch not, they give no warning of the dangers at hand: They teach them not to deny all ungodliness and worldly Lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. It were happy if all such were removed out of the Church of God: They destroy the Souls, and lead them to destruction by their Negligence. What account shall they give unto God for the Souls of their Brethren? Where shall they stand, or what will they say when he shall bid them make a strait account? This is the Practice of Satan, he useth all means to snare us, & withdraw us from that blessed hope: sometimes he letteth the increase of the Gospel, by raising up tumults, and disquieting the Church of God, and stirring the heart of such as are in Authority to persecute by all means the

the Teachers of the Gospel of Christ. Again, when God giveth peace and quietness to his Church, he leadeth the Overseers of the People to a forgetfulness of their duty, to seek the pleasures and delight of this life, and to have no regard of the work of the Lord : Such occasion the Devil seeketh to hinder our Salvation, and to withstand the truth and glory of God.

CHAP. V.

The Church of Englands's resentment of Non-residence.

OH my Sons, I have no pleasure in exposing you ; yet have I no power to excuse you : You know that I have charity for you, that *suffereth long, that is kind, that is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.* Alas ! what shall I do now my People complain, my Adversaries reproach, my Sovereign is displeased, my Nobility and Gentry are incensed ; and where-ever I turn my self, Complaints are made, Petitions are drawn up, Jealousies are whispered, and Fears are murmured ? *If I should hold my peace, I should be thought altogether such a one as you are : If I should speak, my tongue fails me.* I am in a great strait ; yet you had better have your miscarriages faithfully reproved by me, to your Reformation, than maliciously aggravated by others to your Destruction. My words may be smart, yet they are wholesome ; severe they may be, yet kind : You hear me with sorrow, but not with more than I speak to you with.

1. It's said that after so many Councils, Decrees, (as *Eccl. 6. Tol. 6. Chal. 7. Nic. 15. Sardic. 14.* after so many Fathers charge, as *Hier. com. 2. p. 111. Aug. 7. 4. in B. 16. Athan. in Jo. 7. Naz. apol. p. 16. Cyp. Ep. 8. Greg. de cura pastoralis passim*) after so many provisions of Parliaments, as *30 Hen. 8. 4. 32 El. 6.* so many Complaints from friends and foes, as *31 Q. El. 3. K. J. 12 K. Ch.* a sin so dishonourable to your Profession, so dangerous to Church and State, so clearly repugnant to your Calling as *Non-residence* is, should yet be named among you !

As, 1. Do you read that in *Act. 20. 25* *Take heed to your selves, and to all the flock over which the holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood ? &c. Take heed, be not absent, neglect not.* Do you consider where you are, what you have taken upon you ? *Over which the holy Ghost :* Hath the holy Ghost set you over your Flocks, and do you forsake them ? Hath Heaven intrusted them to you, and do you neglect them ? *Overseers,* and yet not come near your flock ? Bishops, and never visit them ? *To feed the Church of God,* that Church for whose sake the world is upheld. Oh what a charge have you undertaken ! And will you be unfaithful to this charge ? Are you Stewards of God's own Family ? *Oh it's required of a Steward that he be found faithful,* *1 Cor. 4. 2.* Have you the conduct of those Saints that must live for ever with God
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in glory, and will you neglect them? Are the Souls of men thought meet to see his face in glory, and are they not worthy of your utmost care and pains? Oh if you kept beasts you might say they are scarce worth looking after; but do you think so of the Souls of men, of the Church of God, the peculiar People, the Holy Nation, *Which he hath purchased with his Blood?* God the Son hath purchased the Church with his Blood, and will you not look to it? What, Sirs, will ye despise the Blood of Christ? Shall the price of his Blood be lost? Hath Christ died for Souls, and shall not I sweat? Are my People they which Christ came from Heaven to save, and shall not I go from the City, from the Court, &c. to save them? Oh what do I here, may you say, when it may be one of my poor flock perisheth, for whom Christ died?

After my departing (saith the Text) grievous Wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the Flock. Oh, Sirs, do you not know that the Jesuite is busie, that the Seducers are many? Why do you forsake your Flocks? Are you resolved to ruine me? First, you displease the People, then you leave them open to any seditious or factious persons that will improve their prejudice, discontents and weakness, to their own advantage. It's true, you substitute your Curates: But, alas, poor men, they are hardly able to live, much less to dispute: They are hardly able to furnish themselves for Sermons, much less for Controversies: Besides that, they are so contemptible, that I may here very pertinently alledg that of *Eccles. 9. 13.*

Oh that you should betray his Majesties interest and my cause, and leave his subjects and my people to the temptations of those men who with good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple, with feigned words making merchandize of them! Can you stay in Court or City, and leave your poor Neighbours perverted, honest men deluded, good subjects debauched, and a Kingdom almost overturned? As *Augustus* said to *Quint. Varus*, *Quintili Vare redde Legiones*; so his Majesty, so I (if yet you will hear me) say unto you: Oh restore us the many Souls which by your neglect we have lost! Oh restore us that peace which by your carelessness we want! Oh restore us that purity of Doctrine and Worship which by publick and private diligence you might have secured! While you are asleep, the enemy soweth his Tares; while you sleep, your ruin slumbers not: while you ride to and fro seeking that preferment your ambition may pitch upon, your Adversary the Devil and his Emisaries goes to and fro seeking whom he may devour. You compass Sea and Land for Wealth, your Adversaries compass Sea and Land for *Profelytes*.

And did not the late Times slander you, and are you Hirelings indeed? *He that is an Hireling, and not the Shepherd, whose own the Sheep are not, seeth the Wolf coming, and leaveth the Sheep, and fleeth, and the Wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the Sheep. The Hireling fleeth because he is an Hireling, and careth not for the Sheep.* Joh. 10. Oh of your own selves do men arise, *speaking perverse things* to draw away Disciples after them. Therefore watch; and remember, that in the Primitive times for the space of many years the Ministers
ceased

ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears: And they could say to their Congregations, *We take you to record that we are pure from the blood of all men; for we have not summed to declare unto you the whole counsel of God. We have coveted no man's Silver, nor Gold, nor Apparel, Aët. 20.*

2. Are not you them *that watch for mens souls*, and do you not look after them? Are you to watch over them so as to give an account, and do you leave them? Are you the Angels of the Church, sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation, and to behold the face of their Father which is in Heaven, and do you not regard them? Angels, and earthly? Angels, and yet worldly? Are you the Soldiers of Christ, and do you entangle your selves in the affairs of this life? Are you ordained to preach the Gospel? A necessity is laid upon you, and woe is you if you preach not the Gospel. Are you Stewards of the manifold gifts of God, and do you not remember that you must give an account of your Stewardship, for you shall be no longer Stewards? Are you in Christs stead, and yet so careless of his People? Ah if Christ had served you so, what had become of you? What had become of the World?

3. Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ, and yet not feed his Flock? *Simon Peter, lovest thou me? feed my Lambs. Simon Peter, lovest thou me? Thou knowest, O Lord, that I love thee: feed my Sheep.* Have you any kindness for your peoples Souls? Do you not hear them cry, *Come and help us?* Are they your joy, your crown, your rejoycing? Oh have mercy upon them! Do you not hear them say, *Master, carest thou not that we perish?* We have immortal souls to lose, an Eternity to hazard; carest thou not that we perish? *Do you wonder that your people desert you, when you have forsaken them?* Can you blame them that they separate from you, who have no care of them? They must needs forget their duty towards you, when you have forgotten yours towards them. No wonder if they cleave to their *Pastors and Teachers*: For they find none *like minded, who naturally care for their state.*

O Sirs, the *harvest* of souls at this time is great: * the Prebends are many, the Priests are many, the Deans are many; -- the *Labourers* are few: Shall *Bishop Jewel*. I pray the Lord of the harvest to *turn you out*, and *send forth Labourers into his harvest*? The souls that would be saved are many: but they die in ignorance, and you are not among them to instruct them; they die in doubt, and you not near them to satisfy them; they die in despair, and there is none to comfort them: they live in disorder, and there is none to guide them: they are in a state of nature, and there is none to reclaim them: they are weak, and there is none to strengthen them: they are liable to temptation, and there is none to assist them to manage their temptation: they go astray, and there is none to *seek them that are lost*: they are in the gall of bitterness, and there is none to relieve them: they are under the power of Satan, in darkness, and there is none to *turn them to God*, that they may receive *forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in Christ*, if God peradventure might give them repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth, that they might escape out of the snare of the Devil; that so they might be

be converted, and their sins be forgiven them. Fain would they hear, that their souls might live; but you are not among them to preach: willing they are to receive the Sacrament, but you are not among them to administer it. They are declining in grace, and there is none to recover them, or in the spirit of meekness to restore them: they are at a loss, and there is none to advise them: they miscarry, and there is none to oversee them, to watch over them, to look to them: they are sick, and there is none to visit them, to instruct and comfort them: they are unruly, and there is none to see that Church-discipline be exercised upon them.

4. Will you receive the Tythes of God, and not do the Work of God? Will you live of the Gospel, and not preach the Gospel? Will you live of the Altar, and yet not serve the Altar? Will you eat, and yet not work? Will you receive Tythes given to *Melchizedec*, and yet bless not the children of *Abraham* that pay it? Will you receive the Levites portion, and yet not wait on the *Tabernacle*, nor serve the *Sanctuary*? Will you have the double honour of *Reverence* and *Maintenance*, and yet not labour in the Word and Doctrine? Must he that is taught communicate unto him that teacheth him not in every good thing?—How can you enjoy those Donations our Forefathers made to Ministers for teaching the good Word of God, for praying, &c. and yet neither teach nor pray? *Vid. Spl. conc. Br. p. 29. Vid. Ilyr. cent. 8. c. 9. Col. 3. 16. Ed. 1624. Bede Hist. Eccl. l. 1. c. 16. fin. Lamb. Arch. p. 22. Bonif. Ep. p. 24. Polyd. Virg. l. 3. p. 89, 90. Stow. p. 99. vit. Eg. Ingulph. Selt. 6. 7. Mat. West. Gest. Br. 2. 2. Telsley anim. sed p. 173. Speed Hist. 7. c. 32. Fox Martyrol. 3. p. 136. Prefat. in Leg. Alfredi. c. 38. Leg. Eccl. Alur. Althelstan. Malmesb. de Gest. Br. 2. c. 11. Gemel. l. 6. c. 9. Seld. Eadm. Hist. p. 171. R. Basingst. 3. p. 186.* How will you look your Ancestors in the face, when you have taken their gifts, and neglected their desires? What, take the Tythe they gave, and leave their Posterity destitute!

Object. You will say, we have *Curates*; and they perform our Duty.

Ans. 1. Curates? What new Generation of men are these *Curates*? We have indeed some Prophets, some Apostles, some Evangelists, some Pastors, some Doctors; but no *Curates*. Your Commission (O my Sons) is, *Go ye, and teach all Nations*; not *Go ye*, or send your *Curates* to teach all Nations. Hath your Servant liberty to bring whom he will to your service, while he takes his pleasure; and have you liberty to bring whom you will to Gods service, while you take your pleasure? O Sirs, the Scriptures run thus: *Son of man, I have made thee a watchman to the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at thy mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die, and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way to save his life: the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling-block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die*

die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered, but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin; he shall surely live because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul. I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing, and his kingdom: Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an Evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. If you would be saved only by Curates, then serve God by Curates: If you may be damned only by Curates, then trust your Chârgé to Curates. But how do you read? Son of man, prophesie against the Shepherds of Israel, prophesie and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the Shepherds, Wo be to the Shepherds of Israel, that do feed themselves: Should not the Shepherds feed the Flock? Ye eat the fat, and ye cloath you with the Wool, ye kill them that are fed; but ye feed not the Flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost: But with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no Shepherd: And they became meat to all the Beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My Sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: Yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore ye Shepherds hear the word of the Lord: As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no Shepherd, neither did my Shepherds search for my flock, but the Shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my Flock: Therefore, O ye Shepherds, hear the word of the Lord, Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I am against the Shepherds, and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock, neither shall the Shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

2. Are Curates Ministers, or are they not? If not, why do you employ them? If they are, why do they not live upon that maintenance that God hath allowed Ministers? You could not endure rationally in these late times to hear of Stipends, yet now your Brethren must be content with Allowances: And besides, if they are Ministers, then either they have Cure of Souls, or not: If they have Cure of Souls, why do they not attend their own charge? If they have no Cure of Souls, how can they exercise any Ministerial act, seeing they have none to exercise it upon? No People being obliged to attend any but their own Minister; yea, all People being bound to attend only their own Minister. If you will say, He is your Peoples Minister, then you must say, You are not.—One People can have but one Minister at a time—

3. Do you who are non-resident expect Tythes by Mans Law only, or by Gods? Not by Mans Law only: For you have said, and must say against the Anabaptist, That they are of Divine right; otherwise they will say, *what Man hath given, Man may take away*: Nor must you look for it by Gods Law, which never allowed the maintenance of a Minister to any but such as did the work of the Ministry. *The Labourer, and he only, is worthy of his hire.*

4. *Cannot the State keep Curates as well as you?* If this be all, may not the Common-wealth allow Salaries and Stipends as well as you, and so remove the *burthen of Tythe*? O Sirs, you know not what to do; when the King, Lords and Commons observe how much Tythe goeth to maintain your pride, vanity and folly, and how little to maintain the service of God, they say, What need this wast? Why do we throw away so much of the publick Revenue, as amounts to two million and a half, whereas half a million may maintain Men to read Prayers, and do all the duties of Ministers? A Gentleman hath a Parsonage of 200*l.* a year in his gift; Why, saith he, shall I part with so much of my Estate, cannot I give 20 or 30 *l.* to a Curate as well as a Clergy-man? You will tell him, *Sir, you Rob God.* He will say, No more than you: You know God only hath Tythes when they are employed in his service; and I shall allow so much and more to Gods service than you do. *Obj. Why should you, being a Lay-man, meddle with Tythes, which belongs to Gods Service?* *Ans.* I do not meddle with any which belongs to Gods service, but with what is abused to Mans wantonness. *Obj I am a Clergy Man.* *Ans.* So are thousands more; yet none hath right to Tythe, but he that performs the duty enjoined them that receive Tythe: Tythe is not so much the maintenance of Ministers persons, as their wages for their work: But a little of the Tythe may suffice him who does the work, as we may observe from what you allow; and really *I do not know by what Law of God or Man a Clergy-man may turn his Tythe to private advantage, any more than a Lay-man.* O Sirs, if you neglect your Calling when you have maintenance, what would you do if you had none? Oh you that condemn Sacriledge, do you live by it? You that say a Man should not rob the Church, do you rob it? You that preach and write against taking away Ministers maintenance, do you take away Ministers maintenance? Is it for this the Nation upheld Tythes against all oppositions, to have a few Readers and Curates? What, have we saved them from the *Factions*, to be swallowed up by the *Covetous*? Oh you are *Men born to undo your selves, to ruine your Calling, and to tempt a greedy World to take away all your maintenance.* Do you read History? (Alas, I am afraid that a Spirit of slumber hath seized you.) Do you observe what is written in *Ecd. 10 ch. 279.* and *Chartres de nug. cur. 7. 21.* They (the Priests) grew scandalous: — they neglected their Cures: They resided not upon their Livings: — they went to and fro for their pleasure: The People rose up against them: The Noblemen withdrew their Tythe from them: — the whole Kingdom cried, No Service, no Main-

Main-

Maintenance :—*Tea; the poor people burned the Tythes, being loath the unworthy Ministers should have any benefit by them; tho loath themselves to meddle with them.*—Thereupon it was agreed among the *Thames*, That there should be no maintenance given to Persons, but to Churches, which might allow them to such persons that did them service; and none should live by Church-allowance, but they that did Church-duties. *Seld. ibid. Excerpt. Egbert. can. 100.* In continuance of time the Lazy and Idle had ingrossed almost all Church-preferments; then the Tythes were alienated and appropriated as it is at this day :—Whereupon the Clergy awaked a *while*, and followed their business diligently in K. *Ed. 6.* and the beginning of Q. *El.* Reign. Yet men are men still : For *about the 30 of Q. El. the remainder of Church-livings that had escaped the Impropriators, was ingrossed by a few Pluralists and Non-residents* : Insomuch that the Commons in the Parliament of that Year Petitioned the Lords earnestly, argued rationally, concluded preemptorily against these miscarriages, as they did in all Parliaments until the 12 of K. *Ch.* when the scandal of this usurpation was so great, the *odium* so general, the clamour so universal, the juggle of the Non-residents (in holding Tythes under the pretence of the Ministry for nothing, and in receiving a million of the National Revenue for nothing else but that they were in Orders) was so apparent, that the whole maintenance of Ministers was endangered, all Church-preferment was threatened. And you who now cannot content your selves with handson and honest competences, were like to be brought to a morsel of bread. O Sirs, *give no occasion to them that seek occasion* : Let the world see that Duty is more your care than Maintenance; that you do not *work to eat*, but that you *eat to work* : That to maintain the English Clergy, is, 1. To uphold Religion : 2. To advance God's Name : 3. To promote the Salvation of Souls, to support the glory and interest of this Kingdom, together with the peace, civility and happiness of this Age and Posterity.

Gild. de excidio Britanniæ, Edit. Polyd. Virg. p. 73.

Possent quidem lenior fieri Increpatio, sed quid prodest vulnus tantum manu palpare, unguentove ungere, qui tumore jam vel factore sibi horrescens, cauterio, & publico ignis medicamine eget? O Inimici Dei, non sacerdotes: O licitatores malorum, non Pontifices, Traditores & non Apostolorum successores.—Si quis Episcopatum cupit, bonum opus cupit: Vos Episcopatum avaritia gratia cupitis—in hoc Sermone lachrymis potius quam verbis opus est—nec sibi quisquam sacerdotum de corporis mundi conscientia supplandat, cum eorum quibus in æst, si propter ejus Imperitiam, seu desidiam, seu Adulationem perierint in die iudicii de ejus manibus veluti Interfectoris anima exquirantur: Multum usu ac frequentia peccatorum inebriati, & incessanter irruentibus vobis scelerum cumulatorum, ac si undis quassati, unum veluti post naufragium in qua ad vivorum terram evadatis, pœnitentia tabulam toto anima visu inquirite, ut avertatur furor Domini a vobis.—Ipse omnipotens Deus totius Consolationis & misericordia paucis.

paucissimos bonos pastores conservet ab omni malo, & municipales faciat civitatem
Jerusalem celestis: hi v. sanctorum omnium Congregationis, Pater, Filius,
Spiritus Sanctus, Cui sit honor & gloria in secula seculorum. Amen. Amen.

A Catalogue of Non-residencies.

I N Berkshire	18	Norfolk
Bedfordshire	30	Oxfordshire
Buckinghamshire	24	Northumberland
Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely	45	Northamptonshire
Cornwall	46	Somersetshire
Cheshire	455	Suffolk
Cumberland	12	Sussex
Derbshire	32	Surrey
Devonshire	61	Shropshire
Dorsetshire	79	Merionethshire
Durham	57	Caernarvan
Essex	106	Anglesey
Glocestershire	46	Denbigh
Hampshire	65	Flintshire
Herefordshire	54	Montgomery
Lancashire	63	Glamorganshire
Lincolnshire	49	Monmouthshire
Leicestershire	62	Pembrokeshire
Middlesex	105	Radnorshire
Nottinghamshire	34	Caermarthenshire
Kent	96	Brecknock
Worcestershire	78	

So that of 12000 Church-livings, or thereabout, 3000 and more be
impropriate, and 4165 being *Sine-cures*, or Non-residents Livings; w
a poor remainder is there left for a painful and an honest Ministry for
glory of God, and the salvation of Souls?

F. I. N. I. S.